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BIRD NOTES.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME II.—SERIES III.

> *" By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."*

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

AUTHOR OF " AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.

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Secretary's Report.

With this issue of Bird Notes, Vol. II. of Series III. is complete. Our members will, I think, agree with me that, though contributors are fewer, the present volume favourably compares with its predecessors. I should, however, like to see, during the coming year, more members contributing articles to the Journal. 1920 will be the "coming of age" of the club, and I feel sure that if every member does his or her best to help, either by writing or sending on to the Editor any items of interest to aviculture, Vol. III. will surpass any that have preceded it.

Our Illustrations have been very numerous, both as plates and in the text, and great credit is due to Mr. Henstock, our printer and publisher, for their excellent reproduction. Mrs. A. M. Cook's drawings have been quite a feature of the volume—all have been done gratis—freely given as her "part *as a member* to assist the club through the times of costly production." On behalf of the Club and its officers I must express our best thanks and keen appreciation.

Coloured plates, owing to the greatly increased cost of production, have been impossible; the club funds would not permit such luxuries.

During the year it was found necessary to increase the annual subscription to £1. Judging by the number of letters I received, endorsing this policy, the great majority of our members approved of the step taken by the Council.

1920, I hope, will see the world again at peace. With the return of normal times most of us will have restarted our aviaries, and, even if not as full as in years gone by, will, at least, have some avian friends therein. Foreign birds are now being imported in goodly numbers, and in very good condition. Only last month the finest collection of African birds I ever recollect seeing brought over at any time, arrived at Messrs. Gamage's, of Holborn, and it was worth a long journey to see them.

Now one word in conclusion, and I want every member to take this as a personal request, *endeavour during the coming year to introduce one new member;* by doing this you will be the means of increasing the funds of the club and advancing the interest taken in our hobby, and, at the same time, help towards making the FOREIGN BIRD CLUB, of which we are all proud to be members, the leading club of the empire.

S. WILLIAMS.

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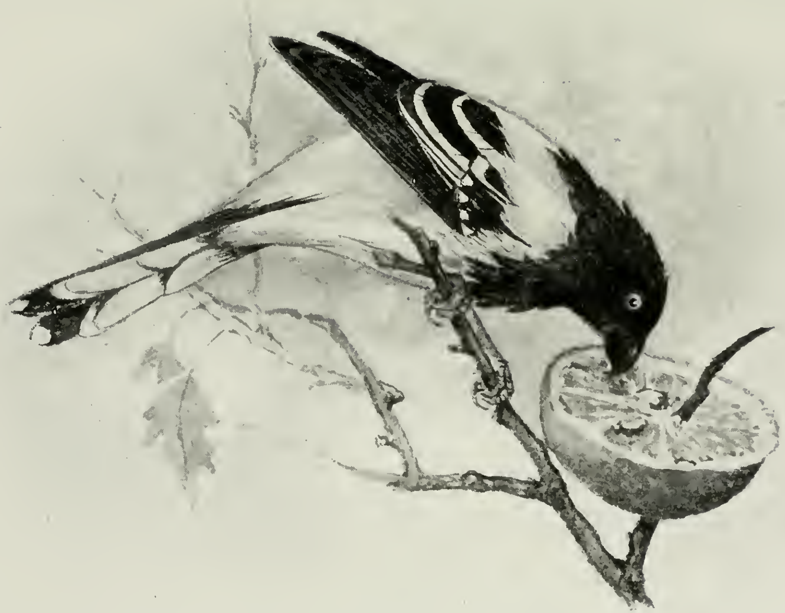

From a Drawing by Mrs, A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Magpie Tanager
Cissopsis leveriana.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Magpie Tanager.

Cissopsis leveriana

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

The following rough notes are penned to accompany Mrs. Cook's characteristic drawing, figuring a specimen sketched by her in the Small Birds' House at the Zoo.

Though quite a large bird, few species, even among the gorgeously clad *Tanageridae*, have greater beauty, either of form or plumage or deportment.

With the plate before us, a description is unnecessary.—I will simply say that the bird's iridescent plumage is black and white; the black areas showing purplish and steel reflections according to light refraction.

In an outdoor aviary during the summer months I know of no finer spectacle than a pair of these birds disporting themselves amid the greenery of a roomy garden aviary. Alas! I have never possessed a true pair, but the charm even of odd birds amid a mixed series lingers still, and as I write I visualise them again as they winged to and fro, or otherwise disported themselves.

The bold, fearless demeanour, wicked-looking, Hangnest-like eyes, cause them to be mistrusted, but the odd birds I have had on two or three occasions never did any harrying or bullying among the smaller fry housed with them. Had there been a pair, and breeding been attempted, probably there would have been trouble.

At the London Zoo young were hatched out, and lived to leave the nest, but did not survive to fend for themselves.

Once they were established my birds were no trouble, and were always in spick and span condition. They had access to milk-sop, ripe fruit, and insectile mixture, and took freely of all three; while of mealworms and other insects they would simply take as many as you cared to supply.

I saw a specimen at Mr. Millsum's some years ago, housed in a large cage with Blue, Superb, Black-cheeked, and other Tanagers, some six or more species, and all lived together in perfect harmony. I should add all these birds were males.

It ranges over Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

◆

Aviary Notes from the United States.

By W H. Browning.

The mating results in my aviary last summer were quite meagre, and I presume it is rather late to send them in now.

We raised two Red Rosellas from one pair in a Berlepsch log nest, all they apparently hatched. Another pair laid five eggs in a wooden box, but on inspection later we found one dead bird and an egg in each corner. There appears to be no use placing sawdust or decayed wood in a box that is flat on the bottom, as the parrot family scratch the sawdust in the corners and lay their eggs on the bare wood, with the result that they roll from under the bird and are not hatched.

A pair of Australian Crested Doves raised four young in two broods. The cocks killed one of them recently, preparatory to nesting again. It is the nature of these birds to scatter their young by persecution, and they should have been removed.

A Grey and a White Java Sparrow raised an assorted family of five. Zebra finches were as usual fairly prolific, but whether I raise all males or the females die, I seem to come out at the end of the season with the male sex largely in the majority.

I raised a male hybrid between a cock Green Cardinal and a Red-crested. It is not a particularly attractive bird, but perfectly healthy. It is brownish white on the breast, olive-green on the back, and the crest and throat that are red in the hen are dark brown with an olive tinge.

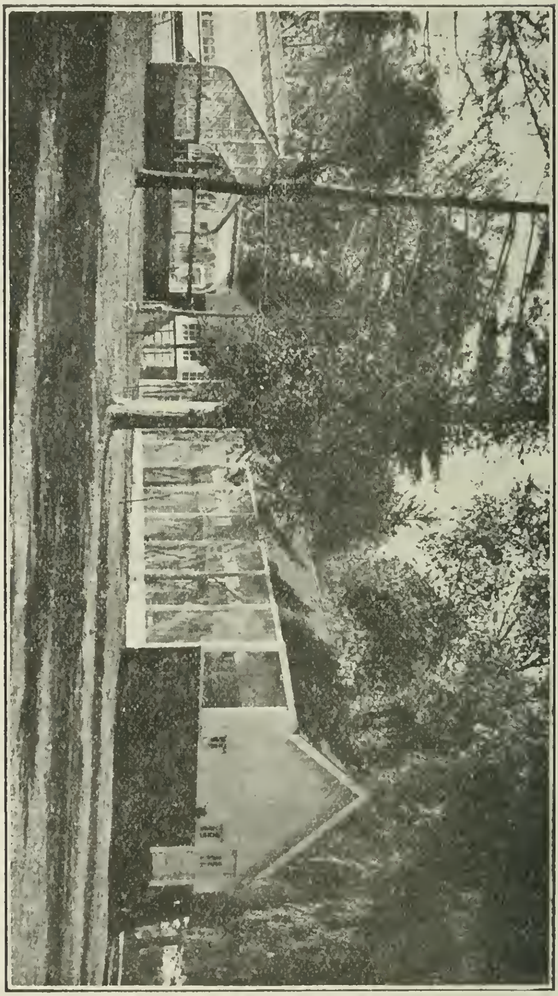
A pair of Cockateels raised three young. They would probably have done better, but a Brahminy Mynah was removing the eggs as fast as they laid them at the start.

I had two pairs of Leadbeater Cockatoos that had lived in harmony for some years, but last spring one cock killed the other, or at least bit off his bill at the base so that he died in a few days. The hen apparently attempted to make a nest in a log, scorning other conveniences provided, but she chose a very hard piece of wood, and grew discouraged before it was finished. Anyway the drainage facilities were bad, as it partially filled with water when it rained. In the same compartment with the Leadbeaters there was a male Pennant's and green hen Alexandrine parrot. They apparently mated, and the hen laid three eggs, which she sat on assiduously, but they never hatched.

I used to raise quantities of Shell Parrakeets. What the trouble is now I do not know. I have a fancy that the aviary where they are has become infected, as in a new lot I obtained direct from Australia the females almost all died and the breeding results were nil.

Two pairs of Bauer's Parrakeets, or rather I think there is one hen and three cocks, showed no inclination to nest. These birds are great bathers. They simply love to splash in the water. They have the same habit as the Pennant of running back and forth on their perches.

I do not think tropical birds breed quite so easily in our climate, as it is near New York, as they do in England. Our winters are so cold that they must have heat in the aviary, though I try to keep mine close to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, but they are inclined to grow too fat in the winter, and though apparently all right to look at, they seem to tire and pant with very little exertion after being shut in. Possibly we will do better when we know more about it.



Mr. Browning's Aviaries, Rye, New York, U.S.A.

I tried feeding Swainson's Lorikeets on sugar, Mellin's Food and Marmite diet. I had eight. I now have none, but I think the trouble was not altogether with the food, but due to the fact that we gave them too much of it. They love it and are greedy birds and eat themselves into some sort of liver complaint that shows itself first by the birds growing very fat and then wasting away to a nervous wreck and dying in a fit. I had a remarkably tame Purple-capped Lory for about a year that died the same way. He was so tame that he was allowed his liberty. He had remarkably quick jerky movements and loved to have his head scratched. His plumage was perfect but his voice was so shrill and disagreeable that I finally put him in the aviary, and he died in a fit.

I hope someone some day will discover the proper food for lories, but I imagine, as I said before, it may be quantity and not quality, as no dog would live in health with a full pan of food always at his disposal, and it is possible these birds are the same way.

I have one true pair of Piping Crows, and an odd cock. I like their call, though it would be impossible to describe it to one who had not heard it. They are great fellows for nipping off the tail feathers of the larger parrots, and the hen had her leg almost bit in two by one of the Leadbeaters, but it is almost as well as ever now. The cock got out and was gone for two or three weeks, but we finally caught him in a bush about a mile from home. He could fly all right, but allowed us to come too close before he took wing. He could easily master the ordinary black American crow while at liberty, I was told.

The summer before last I let out two Shell Parrakeets and a pair of Cockateels. The Cockateels I never saw again but the Shell Parrakeets first came back every night. After a while they came back only occasionally. Later I found one and then the other dead inside the aviary. They had apparently eaten something that poisoned them, as they were in perfect condition. Later the other two came back, and I shut them in, so I imagine these birds could be given their liberty after they were accustomed to being fed in a certain place, for a few months in the spring. They are difficult to see in the trees and fly almost like swallows.

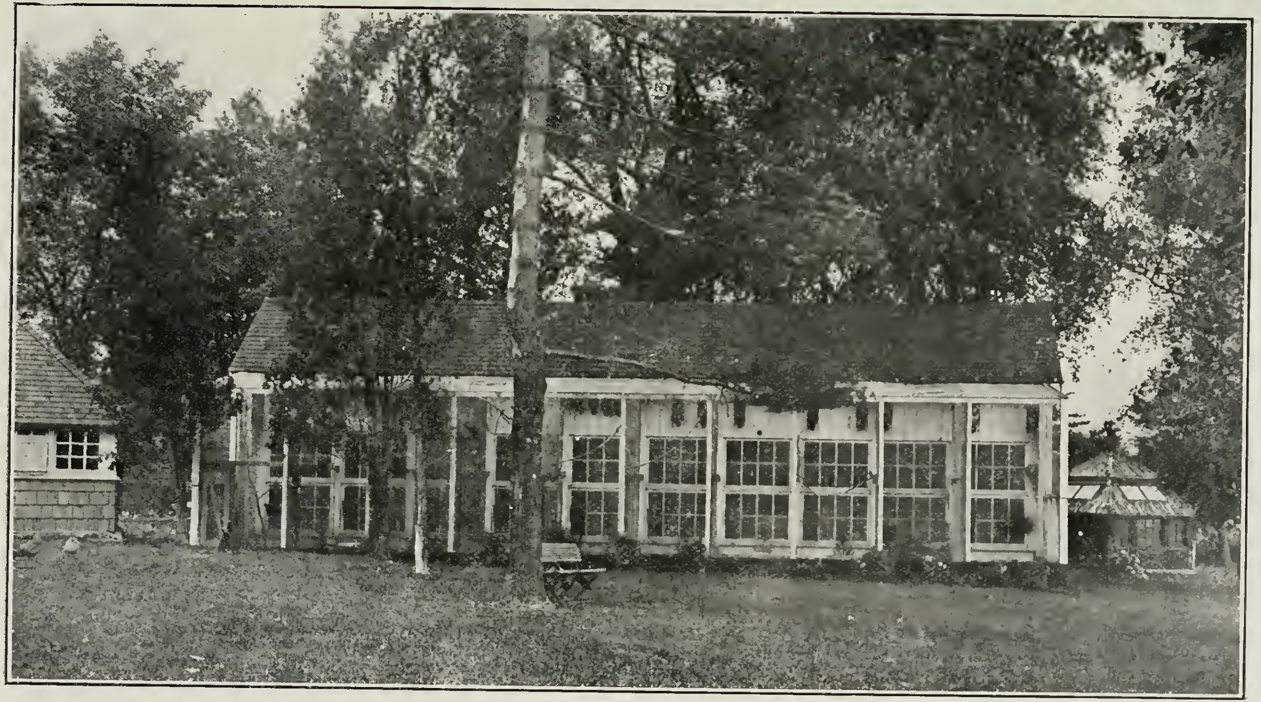
Last summer I purchased half a dozen little finches that the dealer called Chinese tumblers. They resemble *Parus minor* of Gould though they seem to be a little more chestnut coloured on the back than the plate shows them. They have a habit of sitting on a perch and continually flying off and making a complete circle downward and then back. What can be the object of such a performance? Otherwise they are similar in their habits to our common Chickadee.

There is a little black finch from South America in the aviary that will sit on a perch by the hour and start up in the air a couple of feet with a squeaking whistle and back again. He seems to require the exercise to make him sing.

Our bird market, like yours, has been quite limited during the war, and prices have risen considerably, though not to the extent yours have. We had a good many varieties of Cassiques last winter that were entirely new to the market, but I do not think they sold well outside of the few that buy rare birds simply because they are rare. The one I had, *Cassidix icteronotus* of Swainson, had a song like an ungreased wheelbarrow.

Another bird that was quite common was the Blue and Black Yucatan Jay. They were expensive when they first arrived, but the price finally got down very low, and I sold the pair I had for $6, as they were making life miserable to the other inhabitants. I purchased a Guatemalian Jay about the same time. It was a beautiful bird, but died a short time ago, while apparently in good health.

A bird that used to be common in our markets, but now is apparently not imported, is the Greater Hill Minah. I fancy they came too fast for the dealers to make a reasonable profit and owing to the poor returns gradually got back to India. I wish they would start bringing them again, as I would like to get some. However, I am beginning to feel that there is more satisfaction in raising a few birds than in trying to have a large variety, and am inclined to reduce my stock to those kinds that there is a reasonable expectation of raising and keeping in health. I know it is hard to resist the temptations to purchase



Mr. Browning's Aviaries, Rye, New York, U.S.A.

if one happens to discover some new species, and the inclination to visit the bird stores in the hope that they may have something new is one of the principal incentives to keeping birds.

I imagine in our Zoological Park here we have one of the best collections in the world, though they lose a great many, as the building is designed solely to afford the public a good view of the birds and with little regard for their health. They feed them carefully enough, but they lack fresh air and the change of scene that they have in an aviary that allows them to fly outside and in for at least seven months of the year. If I was building it, I would build for the birds and not for the public. Mine are still flying outdoors if they wish to, though the most of them come in at night. I have yet to find that the cold ever killed one of the parrot family, though I have lost a number of South American Tanagers and such birds as the Long-tailed Indian Drongo in the fall during the moult. These latter certainly need heat and one ought to have a separate aviary for them.

Can birds read your minds? I have a Grey Parrot that we have had for twenty-five years. If you put a piece of cake or something he likes in your pocket and come into the room, he seems to know it, though he cannot possibly see or smell it. He has an odd little cluck that he gives on these occasions. The coincidence has occurred often enough to make one believe he has some way of sensing it. He scarcely ever utters a disagreeable sound, while another one that lived two or three years in the aviary has become so proficient in unearthly noises that I fear my better half will send him back to the aviary soon. It is odd the old bird never copies him. He is contented to say " shut up," " stop your noise," and if he happens to fly on top of his cage will endeavour to nip his toes, and at the same time say " don't you bite, don't you bite." The door of his cage is always open, but he rarely comes out, and then only to go to the top to test his wings by a vigorous flapping, not letting go of the wires, however. He will not fly off it unless frightened. How totally different is the life of this bird from that of his ancestors, and how unhappy he would be to be restored to his native surroundings. The companionship of human beings is more to him than any of his own kind. If one would take the trouble to mate such a bird to one of his own kind, and I imagine it would be possible, if not with that particular bird, with others like him, after a few generations what an almost uncanny monstrosity in the way of a talking parrot he would obtain, for surely the same law that shows itself in the breeding of canary birds and pigeons, and in fact anything, would hold true and the adaptability for cage life and the imitation of the human voice would be greatly increased.

I am afraid I am rambling on too long, so I am going to stop with the request that you cut out all or any part of this paper that you see fit.

◆

Australian Finches in California.

By J. F. Goytino.

It is not very probable that the readers of Bird Notes are acquainted with the avicultural conditions existing just now, after the war, in the United States of America. Soon after our entrance in the great European conflict the birds were placed in the non-essential class by our Federal War Trade Commission and the importation of exotic birds stopped *ipso facto*. Stimulated instead of being discouraged by the embargo our American aviculturists made *bon cœur contre mauvaise fortune*, and, abandoning—I hope for ever—their old easy ways of having their aviaries exclusively attended by their servants, mostly Japanese, started in earnest to add to their avicultural population by encouraging and watching the breeding of their birds, the Australian Finches being the most numerous amongst them.

The Gouldians *(Poephila gouldiæ)* had already many *ante bellum* admirers; it was difficult to find a first class aviary, especially in California, without two or three pairs of Black-headed *(P. gouldiæ)* or Red-headed *(P. mirabilis)*. —The Yellow-headed *(P. armitiana)* is a *rara avis* indeed, as I have never seen one yet. These exotic beauties get acclimatized very easily here, and generally start to breed the year of their arrival. I have just now (December 8th, 1918) several pairs acquired last May from an Australian importation, all breeding and raising young ones. Our seasonal fall seems to be their time of predilection for breeding purposes, probably because it corresponds to the Australian Spring. After building a quite bulky nest with coarse grass, carefully lined with Pampas plumes *(Gynerium argentum)*, four or five eggs—very seldom six—are deposited on the downy bed and left entirely in charge of the male, who seems glad to incubate them without any interference from the female. The eclosion takes place after fifteen or sixteen days of steady sitting, and the youngsters leave the nest three weeks to a day after their birth. In their nestling plumage they are all dull green, with two little pearly excrescences at the base of both mandibles, which give them a peculiar look, but which disappear soon after their leaving the nest. It takes them six or seven months to acquire the gaudy plumage of the adult, and from then on are very sturdy and long-lived birds; that is one of the reasons why they are so highly thought of by our aviarists all over California.

Second in popularity to the Gouldians are the Long-tailed Grassfinches *(Poephila acuticauda)* known here under the name of Shaft-tailed Finches. They are exceedingly hardy birds and most prolific breeders. I have in my possession one pair that has laid twenty-eight eggs since May 20th, 1918, and are, even now, attending to a brood of seven young ones. The moulting season—in July—they laid six eggs, which were all infertile, as would be expected. Their young don't show the same precocity as the Gouldians, as they are at least six weeks old before they leave their nest. But, as breeders, the Long-tailed Grassfinch certainly deserves the " Blue Ribbon."

Masked Grassfinches *(Poephila personata)* are also quite common in our aviaries, but don't show the same propensity for breeding as the Long-tailed. They are very healthy birds get established easily, but somehow are too dull for some amateurs. They are far from being as popular as Gouldian and Long-tailed Grassfinches.

Zebra Finch *(Taeniopygia castanotis).* This is one of the most numerous of Australian Finches in Californian aviaries. The bird you first meet in every aviary or house-cage is the little cocky, unruly Zebra Finch. Hundreds are bred every year in Southern California. In one of my aviaries I have just now (December 8th) at least twenty pairs sitting or raising young ones. They don't seem to stop breeding even in the moulting season, and they are so numerous that they are on the point of becoming a pest, so that they always act as if they didn't care a bit about the Malthusian theories of our suffragettes about " birth control."

Wonderful as is the prolificacy of those lilliputian birds it is nothing compared to their precocity. Two female Zebras, born in one of my cages April 15th, 1917, begin to lay, one on the 4th of July, 1917, and the other on July 14th, 1917, that is to say 80 and 90 days respectively after they were hatched. And, more than that, their eggs were all fertile and produced very healthy and strong young ones. For the benefit of doubting Thomases, I may say that the precocity of the Zebras was fully admitted as early as 1883, as I read in a French book, published by E. Leroy, a distinguished aviculturist, the following sentence: " *Les jeunes sujets de la première portée sont aptes â reproduire la même année à l'automme.*" As Mr. Leroy used to mate his Zebras about the 15th of April his statement means that birds hatched about the middle of May were apt to breed in September. However, that surprising propensity for early breeding is not the exclusive peculiarity of the Zebras. Many times I have had young Shell Parrakeets *(Melopsittacus undulatus)* start to lay three months after leaving their nest. and I am almost sure that most of the breeders of Budgerigars have had the same experience, and can corroborate my statement.

The Parson Finch *(Poephila cincta)* ,called here the Black-throated Finch, is seldom seen now, but was very common in Californian aviaries about twenty years ago. Their disappearance from the market can be attributed to the fact that most of the " Parsons " reach our shores in a very sickly condition, and consequently they either died in transit or soon after arrival. Otherwise they are good, steady breeders.

though a little domineering amongst the smaller birds.

The Diamond Finch *(Steganopleura guttata)* is also very well known here, and has not that tyrannical reputation that he is enjoying in Europe. It breeds easily, and most of the aviaries have a few pairs of them.

We have also, from time to time, liberal supplies of Cherry-headed Finches *(Aidemosyne modesta)* called here Plum-headed Finches; of Chestnut-breasted Finches *(Munia castaneithorax)*; of Pectoral Finches *(M. pectoralis)*, and occasionally a few Crimson Finches *(Neochmia phaeton)*, called here Blood Finches. Last May I succeeded in acquiring seven pairs of Crimsons; several of them have been laying already.

We get also, but very rarely now, some Rufous-tailed Finches *(Bathilda ruficauda)* called here by our dealers "Star Finches." But none of my friends have been able yet to acquire a Painted Finch *(Emblema picta)*, or a Fire-tailed Finch *(Zonæginthus bellus)*. They must be very scarce, even in Australia, when we don't see them in our bird markets.

I was on the point of forgetting to mention one of my favourites, the sprightly little Bicheno's Finch *(Stictoptera bichenovi)*, called here the Owl Finch. We have the two kinds—the Bicheno's and the Double-barred, so alike but for the markings on the rump. They are very sturdy birds, very active—in fact the most active birds known to me, and the hardest to catch in an aviary. But they are very good breeders.

The Sidney Waxbills *(Aegintha temporalis)* are not as common in our aviaries now as they used to be a few years ago. However, a few fortunate aviarists possess some good breeders in their collection.

Now that the embargo on foreign birds is raised we may expect to see again many Australian Finches imported by our wealthy aviarists, and my fondest hope is to see the time when aviculture will be as popular in the United States as it is on the European Continent. We are yet young here, but we are progressing fast on that line as well as on all other lines, and the future will bring many surprises for the fancy. May our hopes be realised soon!

The White-Cheeked Honey Sucker.

Meliornis sericea.

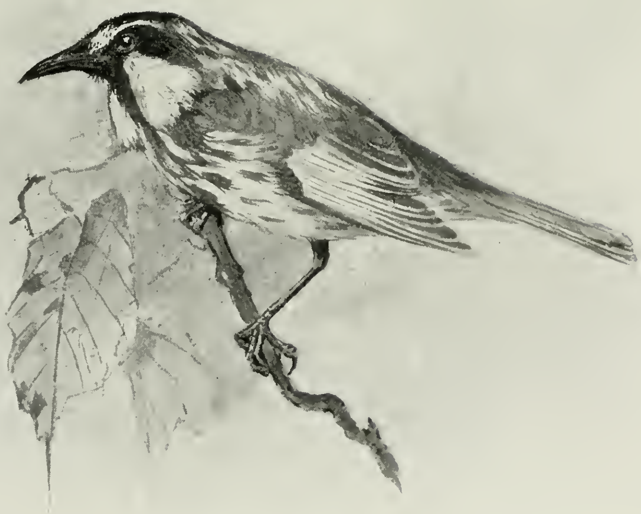
By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Not many of the *Meliphagidae* have been known to private aviculture in this country, though a good few species have been exhibited at the London Zoo at various periods, and where the subject of our plate may still be seen in the Small Birds' House.

In last volume in an article on " The Birds of Tasmania " some glimpses were given us of this beautiful and interesting family in their native wilds

Mr. Le Souef, in his book " The Birds of Australia," writes thus of the Honey-eaters:

> " The Honey-eaters are among the most characteristic birds of our " bush, and are to be met with in all parts of the Continent. Their shapely " rather slender bodies are well adapted to the restless life which they lead " amongst the branches of the shrubs and trees. In the search for the " most attractive flower clusters, the flight is often broken into little zig-zags " and many a curve, and on alighting they creep and twine amongst the " branches, and adopt the quaintest and most ungraceful modes of suspen-" sion in order to enable them to probe the tubular or cup-shaped blossoms. " The protractile and brush-like tongue enables them to extract the honey " from the many Eucalypts, Tea-trees, Bottle-brushes, Banksias and Heaths, " and the poise of the birds during the operation is graceful and easy. " With the honey they take the pollen and sometimes the buds of the " flowers. A large proportion of the food of nearly all the species con-" sists of insects, which they pick out of the flowers, or off the twigs, more " rarely on the wing. Hence, though a few are fruit lovers, and in con-" sequence may be orchard robbers, on the whole the family is of " considerable service to the agriculturists. The notes of most of the " Honey-eaters are pleasing . . . . The nests are open and cup-shaped. " variously composed of grasses, bark, old spiders' webs, lined with finer " grasses, thin strips of bark, hair, and wool, and are placed at various " heights in forked branches of the trees and saplings, sometimes suspended " by the rim, while a few build in bushes. The eggs are two or three in " number and have a strong family likeness, with a uniform ground colour " white, or more often flesh-coloured, creamy, or buff, ornamented with " spots and dots of chestnut-red, and purplish-grey. They vary in length " from a little over half an inch in the smaller birds to an inch and a " quarter in the largest."



From a Drawing by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

The White-cheeked Honeysucker.
Meliornis sericea.

Sericea ranges over Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

It is a beautiful and striking species, of fine graceful form, with a clear double whistling note. The principal colouration is dark blackish-brown, strikingly pied with white; wings and tail variegated with yellow; forhead white; "the development of the feathers of the cheek forms a broad fan-like shield on each side of the throat" Le Souef. The colour pattern is clearly indicated in the drawing.

Of the *Meliphagidae* I have only kept two of the larger species, viz: Silvery-crowned Friar Birds, and Sombre Miner. The other species I have observed at the Zoo, including the subject of this paper, and also in the aviary of our member Capt. W. A. Bainbridge, who personally imported several species just prior to the World-War. Their deportment in the aviary is delightful, a treat to watch, very similar to the graphic description of them in their native wilds by Mr. Le Souef, quoted earlier in this paper.

They must be brought indoors for the winter months, or kept in an aviary where they can be shut into a snug inner house during winter's nights or severe periods. Their diet should be insectile mixture, ripe fruit, milk-sop, and live insects—they are also very fond of the syrup-sop given to Sunbirds, as are all this family.

Before closing these rough notes I may add that all the *Meliphagidae*, including the Friar Birds (as large as a Stock Dove, but more slender) catch mealworms, when these are thrown in the air, on the wing as gracefully as swallows.

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Book Notices and Reviews.

JUNGLE PEACE, BY C. W. BEEBE. 300 p.p. and 16 photo reproduction illustrations New York, Henry Holt and Co.

Mr. Beebe's books need no commendation to our readers, but in this, his latest book, he has surpassed himself in graphic description—the reader visualises the scenes he describes. The book is not confined to birds, but deals with the whole fauna met with in the Bartica District, British Guiana and Para at the mouth of the Amazon. But we will quote extracts from Chapter vi., " Hoatzins at Home," and leave the book to speak for itself:

" HOATZINS AT HOME. The flight of the hoatzin resembles that of " an overfed hen. The hoatzin's voice is no more melodious than the cry " of a peacock and less sonorous than an alligator's roar. The bird's " grace is batrachian rather than avian, while the odour of its body " resembles that of no bird untouched by dissolution. Still, zoologically " considered, the hoatzin is probably the most remarkable and interesting " bird living on the earth to-day.

" It has successfully defied time and space. For it, the dial of the " ages has moved more slowly than for the rest of organic life, and though " living and breathing with us to-day, yet its world is an affair of two " dimensions—a line of thorny saplings threaded along the banks of a few " tropical waters.

" A bird in a cage cannot escape, and may be found month after " month wherever the cage is placed. A stuffed bird in a case may resist " disintegration for a century. But when we go to look for the bluebirds " in the orchard, they may have flown a half-mile away in their search for " food. The plover which scurries before us to-day on the beach may " to-night be far away on the first lap of his seven thousand-mile flight to " the southward.

" The hoatzin's status lies rather with the caged bird. In November " in New York City an Englishman said to me ' Go to the Berbice River, " and at the north end of the town of New Amsterdam, in front of Mr. " Beckett's house, you will find hoatzins.' Six months later I drove along " a tropical river road and saw three hoatzins perched on a low thorn bush " at the river's edge in front of a house. And the river was the Berbice, " and the house that of Mr. Beckitt's.

" Thus are the hoatzins independent of space, as all other birds know " it, and in their classic reptilian affinities—voice, action, arms, fingers,

“ habits—they bring close the dim epochs of past time, and renew for an “ inspection the youth of bird-life on the earth . . . . We took a boat “ opposite Mr. Beckitt's House, and paddled slowly with the nearly-flood “ tide up the Berbice River . . . . For three miles we drifted past the “ chosen haunts of the hoatzins. All were perched in the shade, quiet in “ the intense heat, squatting prostrate or sleepily preening their plumage. “ Now and then we saw a bird on her nest, always over the water. If she “ was sitting on eggs she sat close. If young birds were in the nest she “ half crouched, or perched on the rim, so that her body cast a shadow over “ the young . . . . As I have mentioned the nest of the hoatzin is “ invariably built over the water, and we shall later discover the reason “ for this. The nests were sometimes only four feet above high water, “ or equally rarely, at a height of forty to fifty feet. From six to fifteen “ feet included the zone of four-fifths of the nests of these birds. They “ varied much in solidity, some being frail and loosely put together, the “ dry, dead sticks which composed them dropping apart almost at a touch. “ Usually they were as well knitted as a heron's and in about half the cases “ consisted of a recent nest built upon the foundations of an old one. There “ was hardly any cavity at the top, and the coarse network of sticks looked “ like a most precarious resting place for eggs, and an exceedingly “ uncomfortable one for young birds . . . . But the heart of our “ interest in hoatzins centred in the nestlings. . . . The nestlings, in “ seven occupied nests, observed as we drifted along shore, or landed and “ climbed among the thorns, were in an almost identical stage of development . . . . But one little hoatzin, if he had any thoughts such as “ these, failed to count on the invariable exceptions to every rule, for this “ day the totally unexpected happened. Fate, in the shape of enthusiastic “ scientists, descended upon him. He was not for a second nonplussed “ . . . And we found him no mean antagonist, and far from reptilian in his ability to meet new and unforeseen conditions.

“ His mother, who a moment before had been packing his capacious “ litlle crop with predigested pimpler leaves, had now flown off to an “ adjacent group of mangroves. . . . . Hardly had his mother left “ when his comical head, with thick, blunt beak and large intelligent eyes, “ appeared over the edge of the nest. His alert expression was increased by “ the suspicion of a crest on his crown where the down was slightly larger. “ Higher and higher rose his head, supported by a neck of extraordinary “ length and thinness. . . . Sam, my black tree-climber, kicked off “ his shoes and began creeping along the horizontal limbs of the pimplers. “ . . . . At last his hand touched the branch and it shook slightly. “ The young bird stretched his mittened hands high above his head and “ waved them a moment. . . . One or two uncertain steps forward “ brought the bird to the edge of the nest at the base of a small branch. “ There he stood, and raising one wing leaned heavily against the stem, “ bracing himself. My man climbed higher, and the nest swayed violently.

" Now the brave little hoatzin reached up to some tiny side twigs, " and aided by the projecting ends of dead sticks from the nest, he climbed " with facility, his thumbs and forefingers apparently being of more aid " than his feet. It was fascinating to see him ascend, stopping now and " then to crane his head and neck far out, turtle-wise. He met every " difficulty with some new contortion of body or limbs, often with so quick " or so subtle a shifting as to escape my scrutiny. The branch ended in a " tiny crotch, and here, perforce, ended his attempt at escape by climbing. " He stood on the swaying twig, one wing clutched tight, and braced " himself with both feet.

" Nearer and nearer crept Sam. Not a quiver on the part of the little " hoatzin. We did not know it, but inside that ridiculous head there was " definite decision to a deadline. . . . A black hand grasped the thorny " branch six feet from his perch, and like a flash he played his next trick— " the only remaining one he knew, one that set him apart from all modern " land birds, as the frog is set apart from the swallow.

" The young hoatzin stood erect for an instant, and then both wings " of the little bird were stretched straight back, not folded, bird-wse, but " dangling loosely and reaching well beyond the body. To a considerable " fraction of time he leaned well forward. Then without effort, without " apparent leap or jump he dived straight down ward, as beautiful as a seal " direct as a plummet and very swiftly. There was a scarcely noticeable " splash, and as I gazed with real awe, I watched the widening ripples which " undulated over the muddy water—the only trace of the whereabouts of " the young bird. . . . I sat silently watching for the re-appearance of " the young bird. We tallied five pairs of eyes and yet many minutes " passed before I saw the same little head sticking out of the water along- " side a bit of drift rubbish. The only visible thing was the protruding " spikes of the bedraggled tail feathers. I worked the boat in towards the " bird, half-heartedly, for I had made up my mind that this particular brave " little bit of atavism deserved his freedom, so splendidly had he fought " for it among the pimplers. Soon he ducked forward, dived out of sight " and came up twenty feet away among an inextricable tangle of vines. " I sent a little cheer of well wishing after him and we salvaged Sam.

" Then we shoved out the boat and watched from a distance. Five " or six minutes passed and a skinny, crooked, two-fingered mitten of an " arm reared upward out of the muddy flood, and the nestling, black and " glistening, hauled itself out of the water. . . . In fifteen minutes it " had climbed high out of the water, and with unerring accuracy to its " natal bundle of sticks overhead. The mother now came close, and with " hoarse rasping notes and frantic heaves of tail and wigs, lent encourage- " ment. Just before we paddled from sight, when the litte fellow had " reached his last rung, he partly opened his beak and gave a little falsetto " cry—a clear, high tone, tailing off into a guttural rasp. His splendid " courage had broken at last ; he had nearly reached the nest, and he was

" aching to put aside all this terrible responsibility, this pitting of his tiny " might against such fearful odds. He wanted to be a helpless nestling " again, to crouch on the springy bed of twigs with a feather comforter " over him, and to be stuffed at will with delectable pimpler pap. Such is " the normal right destiny of a hoatzin chick, and the *whee-og!* wrung " from him by the reaction of safety seemed to voice all this."

The book abounds in equally fascinating and graphic descriptions of the fauna met with, and we can only advise our readers to procure the book and give it a permanent place on their bookshelves, for, we opine, it is a book all will desire to read again and again.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(*Continued from page 270, last vol.*).

CORVIDAE.

189.—RAVEN. *Corvus Corax.* **W.T.P.**

190.—CARRION CROW. *C. corone.*

Hybrids.

CARRION CROW × HOODED CROW.

In Vale's list. " Fertile hybrids; in evidence at the South Kensington Museum." (? produced in captivity. E.H.).

191.—HOODED CROW. *C. cornix.* Hybrid: see above.

192.—EASTERN BLUE MAGPIE. *Cyanopolius cyaneus.*

Zoo. 4 bred in 1884.

193.—SPANISH BLUE MAGPIE. *C. cooki.*

Zoo. 4 bred in 1890.

194.—OCCIPITAL BLUE PIE. *Urocissa occipitalis.*

1st Lilford, 1914. See A.M. 1916, 70.

Also bred by Amsler in 1915, whose success was recorded as the first (B.N. 1915, 294, 316, and A.M. 1915, 367), till the Lilford record was brought to light.

195.—JAY. *Garrulus rufitergum*, late *glandarius*. **W.T.P.**

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

CORVIDAE.

194.—OCCIPITAL BLUE PIE. Red-billed Blue Magpie.

◆

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE.

196.—REGENT BIRD. *Sericulus chrysocephalus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Phillipps, 1905. A.M. n.s. iv. 51. et seq.

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The SATIN BOWER-BIRD, *(Ptilonorhynchus violaceus)* nested with Mrs. Johnstone, see A.M. (2), i. 63. †A.G.B. ii. 54. The SPOTTED BOWER-BIRD *(Chlamydodera maculata)* has a'so nested in England: Zoo, 1882. †A.G.B. ii. 54.

GREATER BIRD OF PARRADISE *(Paradisea apoda).* Sir William Ingram turned out a number on Little Tobago Island in the West Indies. The whatcher reports that they are breeding there, July, 1912. See A.M. (3), v. 40.

The GREY STRUTHIDEA *(S. cinerea)* " according to Russ . . . laid eggs and brooded young, but unhappily without rearing them." A.G.B. ii. 51.

◆

ALAUDIDAE.

197.—BLACK LARK. *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Phillipps, 1898. A.S. Medal, 1899. See A.M. v. 169.

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198.—SKYLARK. *Alauda arvensis.* **W.T.P.**

Newton, in his edition (the 4th, 1874) of Yarrell's British Birds, says that many instances of Skylarks breeding in captivity are recorded. He names one successful breeder, Mr. Foster, of Hackney. (Vol. i. p. 615).

In F.W. 1896 there is a record of young, but they only lived five days. (E.H.).

199.—CRESTED LARK. *Galerida cristata.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker, 1912. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3), iii. 273.

◆

MOTACILLIDAE.

200.—PIED WAGTAIL. *Motacilla lugubris.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

"In the Fish House of the Zooligical Society a pair . . . . bred and reared their young in captivity." (Newton in Yarrell's British Birds, 4th edition, vol. i. p. 543.

× Pied Wagtail (Grey Wagtail).

◆

201.—WHITE WAGTAIL. *M. alba.* **W.T.P.**

◆

202.—GREY WAGTAIL. *M. boarula.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

GREY WAGTAIL × YELLOW WAGTAIL. W.T.P.

GREY WAGTAIL × PIED WAGTAIL.

"said to produce fertile offspring." Vale.

◆

203.—YELLOW WAGTAIL. *M. flava.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

× Yellow Wagtail (Grey W.)

◆

ANTHIDAE.

204.—TREE-PIPIT. *Anthus trivialis.* **W.T.P.**

205.—ROCK PIPIT. *A. obscurus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Teschemaker, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N., 1912, 335.

◆

PARIDAE.

206.—GREAT TIT. *Parus major.* **W.T.P.**
And see A.M. 1913, 240.

◆

207.—PLESKE'S TIT. *Cyanistes pleskei.*
Hybrids.

PLESKE'S TIT × AZURE TIT. Abroad. W.T.P. C.

◆

208.—AZURE TIT. *C. azureus.*
See the preceding.

To be continued.

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Editorial,

THE PROSPECT: The outlook is decidedly good; at the same time the future is not without difficulty for the following reasons: The high cost of paper, printing, etc., is not likely to be much easier during the present year, and while these costs continue, the amount of the annual subscription does not cover the cost of Bird Notes, even in its reduced bulk.

The deficit is not fully wiped out; but if those who have not yet contributed to this end, will each send such a donation as they can afford, such would suffice to clear off this liability.

These are the only two disquieting features, and these can be easily surmounted without hardship, if each individual member will only do his or her part.

As regards our Journal, the one thing lacking is the slackness of a portion of the members, who need to be importuned to record the episodes and breeding successes that occur in their aviaries. This not only adds to the Hon. Editor's labours, but the published records of aviculture are not so complete as they should or might be; also the contents of the Club Journal are not so varied as they might be. We press these points upon members.

There is a repeated request for lists of mixed collections, together with the size and description of the aviary they are kept in, and details as to the deportment of the birds under the conditions existing. There are quite a number of members who could contribute such information; such would not merely supply a known need, but greatly increase the interest and practical utility of our Journal.

True, BIRD NOTES has not retrograded, and recent volumes, though issued in difficult times, compare favourably with former ones, but "B.N." would be *vastly* increased in interest and utility if the number of our contributors were doubled or trebled. That it is not so is merely the result of a thoughtless slackness on the part of a portion of our membership, that is content so long as a good Journal is maintained. We trust members will carefully consider these facts. We ought to go farther than merely to please and interest ourselves; we ought to stand for progressive aviculture, and this can only be as all contribute their quota of experience, data, etc. Again we press these points upon the careful consideration of all our members.

We hope the Club Breeders' Scheme will make much progress during the present year. A catalogue is in course of preparation, and will appear at an early date.

Only a little more sustained interest on the part of all—especially on the part of those who, hitherto, have been content to receive and read their magazine with interest month by month, without doing anything to extend its power and usefulness or maintain its standard of merit—is necessary to ensure a virile club contributing annually to the store of avicultural lore.

Members are requested to carefully read the *Notices to Club Members* in the pink inset month by month. Those in the present issue are specially important.

Correspondence.

BLOODSTAINED FINCH—GREENFINCH HYBRID.

Sir,—It may be interesting to record the breeding in my aviary this season of a hybrid between a Mexican Rosefinch or Blood-stained Finch *(Carpodacus mexicanus)* and a Greenfinch hen. It may be within your recollection that this cross was obtained by one of our members a few years ago. In that case the sexes of the parents were reversed. I have not heard of any other instance.

The nest was placed in a Hartz travelling-cage, and only one egg was hatched out of three laid. Abundance of chickweed was given, and I do not think much, if any, of the soft food offered was taken. The young bird—evidently a cock—is a fine, healthy specimen. It is of the same slender "Yorkshire" type as the male parent, and has the same jerky, nervy, demeanour.

The general colour-tone is that of the greenfinch, with the heavy streaking of the rosefinch's breast (though less distinct than the parent's). The brow, and streak over the eye, which are crimson in the rosefinch, are dull green, and the same remark applies to the deep bib and rump. The pattern of the back of the young bird resembles that of the father, though the colour is rather a brown than the dull purple tinge of the rosefinch.

Sad to relate, I found a second clutch of five fertile eggs smashed or pierced in the nest by some unknown culprit, when almost due to hatch. This is one of the annoying experiences which most aviarists have experienced.

The Blood-stained Finch is an old favourite of mine. In 1913 he was the father of a canary hybrid, which was exhibited at the L.C.B.A. show of that year. He is still full of life and energy, and his display in the breeding season is very entertaining. At that period he sings incessantly to his mate, indeed to any lady who takes his fancy! The song is loud and piercing, commencing with an excited rapid outpouring of a single note—something like a chaffinch's, but about three times as long and with a different ending.

Hybrid Doves:—A pair of hybrids between the Turtle Dove *(Turtur turtur)* and the Barbary Dove *(T. risorius)* were bred here last year. These were put in a small enclosure and have had six pairs of eggs this summer. All were clear, however. I believe the eggs of such hybrids have been fertile at times. Perhaps the close relationship of the pair referred to was against success. My object in referrng to them is to mention their curious shift, in the absence of proper nesting materials. A shallow box was fitted up for them, and filled with hay. The box was suitable to their requirements, but not the contents, for, when I examined the first clutch, I found the eggs imbedded in cinders, three or four handfuls of which the birds had carried up from the floor! A bunch of sticks was quickly supplied, and the subsequent clutches were laid in a more orthodox nest.

Inveresk, December, 7th, 1918. M. R. TOMLINSON.

Photo T. E. de Q. Quincey.

Group of Grassfinches.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Grassfinches.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

This is a purely avicultural grouping, but a very useful one, and comprises species which are general favourites, and usually find a place in most mixed series. They are mostly of either brilliant or very pretty plumage.

The species to be dealt with in this paper are as follows:

* Parrot Finch *(Erythrura psittacea).*
Pin-tailed *(Nonpareil)* Parrot Finch *(E. prasina).*
Tri-colour Parrot Finch *(E. trichroa).*
* Gouldian Finch *(Poephila gouldiae).*
* Parson Finch *(P. cincta)*
† Long-tailed Grassfinch *(P. acuticauda).*
Masked Grassfinch *(P. personata).*
White-eared Grassfinch *(P. leucotis).*
* Rufous-tailed Grassfinch *(Bathilda ruficauda).*
* Painted Finch *(Emblema picta).*
* Diamond Finch *(Steganopleura guttata).*
† Ribbon Finch *(Amadina fasciata).*
† Red-headed Finch *(A. erythrocephala).*
† Zebra Finch *(Taeniopygia castanotis).*
* Bicheno's Finch *(Stictoptera bichenovi).*
* Black-rumped Bicheno's Finch *(S. annulosa).*
* Cherry Finch *(Aidemosyne modesta).*
* African Silverbill *(A. cantans).*
* Indian Silverbill *(A. malabarica).*
* Chestnut-breasted Finch *(Munia castaneithorax).*
Pectoral Finch *(M. pectoralis).*
Yellow-rumped Finch *(M. flaviprymna).*

† Free Breeders in Captivity.

* Reasonably free, but erratic in some aviaries; however, once a "breeding pair" is secured are often prolific.

Our frontispiece is from a photo by the late T. E. de Q. Quincey, and represents a scene in one of Mr. R. S. de Q. Quincey's aviaries. The birds figured are mostly Gouldian, Parson and Long-tailed Grassfinches, and hybrids (fertile) between the two latter species, which were rather freely bred in these aviaries.

I do not propose to deal with the above species separately, as many have been recently noted in *Endurance of Birds*, and have often been written about in our pages. Their plumages are well known, so descriptions will not be given. I purpose merely making a few general remarks on the group, and to give a few individual notes where called for.

Grassfinches are deservedly favourites with aviculturists; their beautiful plumage, quaint deportment, and general readiness to go to nest, if not always successfully, are sufficient recommendation. Moreover, they are conspicuous birds, and the positions they choose on bushes when alighting, leave them nearly always " in the picture."

This group has many things in common, being very similar in deportment, general characteristics, food requirements and love-making.

The display of the males is very similar in all the species though some attitudes are more exaggerated with some species than others. The display consists of stretching the neck to the utmost extent and turning the head to one side (with several of the species a straw is held in the beak while this performance is going on) and uttering their love song fervently; the feathers both of the head, neck, and underparts are puffed out, the body is twisted from side to side and bobbed up and down. It is not a foot dance, as the feet are not moved from the twig, even when they move to and fro the claws are merely relaxed to allow of this, but the feet are not taken from the perch—it is an amusing and grotesque performance to us humans, but quite a serious matter to the birds. If amusing and grotesque to us, it is very interesting and entertaining too.

The song of Grassfinches is very similar in all the species, with one or two exceptions it is a weak sibilant warbling, but with one or two species there is strength of voice, and in these cases usually not very musical—e.g. the ridiculous toy trumpet voice of the Zebra Finch. The Parson, Diamond, and Long-tailed species have clear plaintive notes, which though soft are very clear and audible at some distance from the aviary.

I have said their plumage is brilliant or pretty, but beauty is after all a matter of taste, and perhaps I had better sort them out a little to define my statement.

BRILLIANT. Parrot Finch, clad in rich grass-green and scarlet; Gouldian Finch, painted in nearly all the colours of the rainbow; Pin-tail Parrot-Finch, clad in rich green, scarlet, blue, and yellow, very beautifully harmonised: Painted Finch, with its contrasty garment of brown, black, scarlet and white; Diamond Finch, brown black, carmine—scarlet and white, a beautiful arrangement.

BEAUTIFUL AND PRETTY. I have used the word pretty, but it is a misnomer applied to the beautiful soft harmony of most of the following: Parson, Long-tailed, Rufous-tailed, Bicheno's, Chestnut-breasted, and Pectoral Finches. *Pretty* applies more to such birds as the Zebra, Ribbon, Red-headed, and Cherry Finch; the Masked and White-eared Grassfinches; and the Silverbills.

They all construct spherical nests, with a hole at the front, all of which have a family likeness, though varying a little in size and neatness of finish. However, as regards Grassfinches' nests, finish is a matter of degree, for when one comes to examine what appears like a loose ball of rubbish the art and skill of the little builder is at once apparent, and one judges that much of the looseness and rubishy appearance of some of their nests is often merely a device for protecture purposes.

Their eggs too are similar, white or creamy-white in colour, and unmarked varying only in size.

The bulk of the species are natives of various parts of Australia or adjacent islands, and bear comparison well with the beautiful Parrots, Lories, and other Orders common to that region.

FOOD. This too, is similar—canary, white, and Indian millet ,and millet in the ear, with greenfood will form the staple diet of the whole group. A little paddy rice should be offered. and one or two of the species take a few oats too. Soaked paddy rice is greatly appreciated by the beautiful Pin-tailed Parrot-Finch (Nonpareil). When feeding young they should have access to insectile mixture, and also be supplied with some live insects or their larvae; e.g. live ants' "eggs," etc.

I need not pause here to speak of their powers of endurance, as that is being dealt with in another article.

To be continued.

◆

Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

Platycerci and Barnardii.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

Birds of this family are entirely unsuited to close confinement, and, to keep them permanently immured in a parrot cage is an act of cruelty, which cannot be too strongly condemned. As pets, the hens are sometimes satisfactory, but the cocks are almost always aggressive and spiteful. In their vocal performances they compare favourably with other parrots; none actually screech except under the influence of pain or extreme fear, and many of their calls are pretty and melodious. They are satisfactory aviary birds, and, when properly acclimatized, can be wintered out of doors if their enclosure has a sunny aspect and a good shelter to roost in. When newly imported, like most tropical and semi-tropical birds, they need warmth and careful protection from draughts; in case of an illness, the result of chill, a temperature of from 80-85 degrees will generally effect a cure. For breeding, an aviary of not less than 18 feet x 8 feet x 8 feet, inclusive of a shelter 6 feet x 8 feet x 8 feet, is desirable. Success may be attained in a much smaller place, but it is somewhat doubtful if the eggs prove fertile and the embryos vigorous. The best form of shelter for any Parrakeet aviary is an ordinary shed with one half of the front boarded up from top to bottom. If necessary, a door can be put on the other half with a glass window in it, protected by wire netting This makes it possible for the birds to be shut in during bad weather and at night. A heated shelter with an outdoor flight attached is not desirable for Parrakeets, and is productive of many fatal chills. Birds needing warmth are best kept indoors, altogether, in a room with an even temperature. Moulting birds, especially late moulting ones, require watching; even if they have passed a previous winter out of doors, they may take cold while casting their feathers, and need a period of warmth and nursing. Acclimatized birds in perfect feather, can, however, be hardened off and turned out of doors in winter without much risk, even though they have been living for some weeks in a warm room. It is best to wait until a mild south-westerly wind first succeeds a period of severe weather.

Nest boxes, or logs should have a concave bottom and a small entrance hole, and should allow the hen and her brood ample room. If the box is too small the young may be accidentally crushed by their parents when half-grown, or the latter, after investigation of their cramped quarters, may give up all idea of breeding in disgust.

April 15th is quite soon enough to put up the nests; if the birds lay earlier in the year there is great risk of egg-binding. This malady is usually due to cold, but the chances of it are increased by the hen having been kept short of exercise, or being for any other reason a little out of condition. A cure can always be affected by keeping the patient at a temperature of from 80-85 degrees. The symptoms are puffiness, drooping of the wings, and burying of the head in the feathers of the back; great prostration very soon sets in. A hen which gets egg-bound in warm weather is best got rid of. as she will always be useless for breeding. Male birds which have been caged during the winter are no good for breeding the following spring, no matter how vigorous and eager to mate they may appear. Exercise is absolutely necessary to ensure fertility in male Broadtails.

A cock Broadtail can sometimes be got to pair with two hens, but the genus is by nature strictly monogamous. The cock does not incubate, but feeds his sitting mate and takes almost entire charge of the young in the later stages. The latter are best separated from their parents as soon as they can feed themselves.

Broadtail Parrakeets are fond of bathing, and should be provided with a large shallow pan for this purpose. They should also be supplied with grit and with branches of non-poisonous deciduous trees, these being renewed when the buds and bark have been eaten. The floor both of the shelter and the flight should now and then be watered with water in which salt has been dissolved, as this serves as an excellent disinfectant; a solution which is not quite strong enough to kill grass will not harm birds.

When the grass in the flight becomes very coarse and tussocky it should be grubbed up and re-sown. Oats sown among the grass at different times of year provide a much appreciated form of green food.

All paint and varnish must be taboo in Parrakeet aviaries, as the birds nibble the wood and are quickly poisoned.

Broadtail Parrakeets should be fed on the following seed mixture:—Two parts canary, one part hemp or sunflower, and one part oats. Fruit and green food are very necessary—apples, pears, cherries, gooseberries, haws; also lettuce, daisy plants, plantain, groundsel and chickweed. Peanuts are appreciated, and a taste for mealworms is sometimes acquired. but the latter are not necessary.

Adult pairs of Broadtails in good condition are best kept by themselves, as they are very spiteful with other Parrakeets especially with their own and nearly allied species. With birds of other orders—particularly small finches—they are less aggressive, though they require careful watching, especially when they have no Parrakeet neighbours in an adjoining aviary to distract their attention, and provide an outlet for the instinct to hate something so painfully strong in nature as well as in man!

Odd cocks can be kept together, and so can odd hens, unpaired birds of both sexes being far more peaceable than paired ones. Birds not in breeding condition, either from youth or rough treatment and neglect, also agree well enough until the pairing instinct is aroused by increasing age or better health. All species of *Platycerci* interbreed freely, and the hybrids are fertile.

Broadtails at liberty are a charming addition to the bird life of an English garden, their graceful flight, lovely plumage and interesting habits making them a continual joy to their owner. They are less likely to get shot than many other Parrots as they do not betray their presence by loud cries, nor do they fly far from their home. Pairs which have nested in an aviary will, if there is suitable cover for both summer and winter, stay provided food is always supplied to them. A few nest-boxes fixed under the eaves of the house, and in the trees are useful to attract them and prevent them from going down chimneys when prospecting for nesting sites, as they are otherwise inclined to do.

Young birds, bred at liberty, are best caught up for a time as soon as they are no longer fed by their parents. If left to their own devices they become very indepndent, straying to considerable distances and supporting themselves on natural food and the produce of neighbouring orchards—a proceeding not always viewed with favour by the owners of the fruit. The damage done in one's own garden by a few pairs is, however, very slight indeed.

The parrakeets' feeding tray, upon which a supply of seed must always be kept, is best constructed so that it can be converted into a trap for catching up sick birds, etc., and out, and run up an exhorbitant seed bill.

Parrakeets smaller than a Rosella should be caught up in autumn, or they are almost certain to be destroyed by owls during the winter months If owls have been allowed to acquire a taste for Parrakeets, through Budgerigars and other small species being unwisely left out late in the year, even Rosellas are not safe, but birds the size of a Pennant are never taken.

If a bird at liberty loses its mate it will always stray after a few weeks or months in search of a fresh one and be lost. Consequently the widower or widow must be caught up or provided with a fresh partner. As a rule, the new bird will stay with the other, and it is very unusual for it to induce it to leave. When a pair of birds are to be let out for the first time, choose a fine calm evening, and release the cock just as it is getting dusk.

His mate must be in full view at the time, and he must be able to see and hear her first thing the next morning. Some food should be placed close by in a conspicuous position. After the cock has grown accustomed to his surroundings the hen may be allowed to join him at any time of day, but the greatest care must be taken that she does not miss him when she first goes out, or the experiment may end in disaster.

Platycerci can be kept with cut wings in an unclimbable grass enclosure, and although they do not show to great advantage under such conditions they are both healthy and happy and quite ready to breed. They need, of course, a good shelter and plenty of branches to climb about on, care being taken that these are so arranged that the birds cannot injure themselves by dashing against the ground in a sudden attempt to fly from a high perch. The same precautions must be taken against quarrelling as when birds are kept in aviaries.

To be continued.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 20.)

ZOSTEROPIDAE.

209.—INDIAN WHITE-EYE. *Zosterops palpebrosa.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Page. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3), iii. 14.
Another success, Bainbridge, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 260.
Abroad. 1st, Oesterlin †Russ; but this was incomplete. †A.G.B.

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210.—NATAL WHITE-EYE. *Z. virens.*
1st, Lovell Keays, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 197, and A.M. 1915, 272.
(" *viridis* " in error in the text. E.H.).

◆

LANIIDAE.

211.—RED-BACKED SHRIKE. *Enneoctonus collurio.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Gunther, 1904. A.S. Medal, A.M. n.s. ii. 339.

ARTAMIDAE.

212.—WHITE-EYEBROWED WOOD-SWALLOW. *Artamus superciliaris.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Brook, 1908. See B.N. 1908, 183.

AMPELIDAE.

[**213.—WAXWING**. *Ampelis garrulus.*
"young hatched twice in 1903," St. Quintin, A.M. N.S. vii. 115.]

SYLVIIDAE.

214.—TAILOR-BIRD. *Sutoria sutoria.*
Abroad. Perreau in India. See B.N. 1916, 265.

215.—GARDEN WARBLER. *Sylvia hortensis.* **W.T.P.**

216.—BLACKCAP. *S. atricapilla.* **W.T.P.**
Teschemaker, 1909. See B.N. 1909, 228. In the A.M. (3) i. 88. Teschemaker notes that no one seemed to know whether the Blackcap had been bred before or not.

217.—AUSTRALIAN BLUE WREN *Malurus superbus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Phillipps, 1902. A.S. Medal. See A.M. viii. 246, and ix. 15.

MIMIDAE.

218.—MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglotus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Farrar, 1901. †A.G.B. i. 26.

219.—CAT-BIRD. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Farrar, 1902. A.S. MePdal. See A.M. viii. 285.

TURDIDAE.

220.—BLACKBIRD. *Merula merula.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
BLACKBIRD × GREY-WINGED OUZEL. Abroad. W.P.T. C.
× Blackbird (Grey-winged Ouzel).
× Blackbird (Song-Thrush).

221.—GREY-WINGED OUZEL. *M. boulboul.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Page, 1909. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (2) vii. 334.
Zoo, 1909, 1912.
Hybrids.
GREY-WINGED OUZEL × BLACKBIRD.
W.T.P. Butler in 1905 and 1906 (A.G.B. i. 14).
GREY-WINGED OUZEL × ARGENTINE BROWN OUZEL.
W.T.P. Suggitt, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912, 338 and 1913, 49
× Grey-winged Ouzel (Blackbird).

◆

222.—WHITE-BELLIED OUZEL . *M. albiventris.*
Hybrids.
× White-bellied Thrush (American Robin).

◆

223.—TICKELL'S OUZEL. *M. unicolor.*
Zoo, 1904-05-06.

◆

224.—ARGENTINE BROWN OUZEL. *Semimerula fuscatra.* **W.T.P.**
Thorniley, 1910. A.S. Medal. A.M. (3) i. 267.
Hybrids.
× Argentine Brown Ouzel (Grey-winged Ouzel).

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225.—WHITE-THROATED GROUND.THRUSH. *Geocichla cyanonota.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Zoo, 1912.

◆

226.—ORANGE-HEADED GROUND.THRUSH. *G. citrina.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Astley. A.S. Medal, 1911. See A.M. (3) ii. 365.

◆

227.—MISSEL THRUSH. *Turdus viscivorus.* **W.T.P.**

◆

228.—RING-OUZEL. *T. torquatus.* **W.T.P.**
But "doubtful if fully reared" †Page.

◆

229.—AMERICAN ROBIN. *T. migratorius.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1908.
Abroad. Doubtful who was the first. †Russ.
Hybrids.
AMERICAN ROBIN × WHITE-BELLIED OUZEL.
W.T.P. Zoo, 1911.

230.—SONG-THRUSH. *Hylocichla musica.* **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

SONG-THRUSH × BLACKBIRD.

Anderson, 1915 and 1916. Cage Birds, 10.iii. 1917.

For the full record, see Fulljames, B.N. 1917, p. 198. One of these hybrids is now (September, 1917) in the Zoo.

× Song-Thrush (Blackbird).

◆

231.—ROCK-THRUSH. *Monticola saxatilis.* **W.T.P.**

According to Russ, not difficult to breed to the second generation. (A.G.B. i. 19).

◆

232.—HEDGE-SPARROW. *Tharrhaleus modularis.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker, 1907. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. vi. 92.

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233.—JERDON'S ACCENTOR. *T. jerdoni.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker, 1909. See B.N. 1909, 225.

◆

234.—BLACK REDSTART. *Phoenicurus titys.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker, 1912. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) iii. 293, 330.

◆

235.—NIGHTINGALE. *Aedon megarhynchus.* **W.T.P.**

◆

236.—SPROSSER. *A. luscinia.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker. A.S. Medal. A.M. (3) ii. 317.

◆

237.—DAYAL-BIRD. *Copsychus saularis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1873. †A.G.B. i. 23.

Farrar, A.M. (1) v. 146. †A.G.B.

◆

238.—SHAMA. *Citticincla macrura.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Phillipps, 1893. See A.M. iv. 138.

◆

239.—STONECHAT. *Pratincola rubicola.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Teschemaker, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N., 1910, 363.

◆

240.—PIED BUSH-CHAT. *P. caprata.*

Abroad. Perreau in India, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 280.

241.—BLUE ROBIN. *Sialia sialis.* **W.T.P.**
Farrar, see A.M. ii. 157.
Butler, 1890. †A.G.B. i. 24.

◆

TIMELIIDAE.

242.—BLACK-GORGETTED LAUGHING THRUSH. *Garrulax pectoralis*
Lovell Keays, 1914. One young bird lived 14 days, see B.N. 1915, 142.

◆

243.—PEKIN ROBIN. *Liothrix luteus.* **W.T.P.**
Keulemans the first †A.G.B. i. 30.
An account of a more recent success (Page), see B.N. 1915, 269.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.

◆

244.—SILVER-EARED MESIA. *Mesia argentauris.*
Zoo, 1906.
With Phillipps (1903) a pair nested five times, but never quite reared their young, though at least one left the nest. †A.G.B. i. 31.

◆

245.—BEARDED TIT. *Panurus biarmicus.*
1st Carr, Tring, 1913 or 1914 See B.N. 1915, 344, and the November inset.
Lovell Keays, 1915. B.N. 1915, 206, 344. Considered at the time the first success, but later the previous record (Carr) was established.

To be continued.

◆

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 273, Vol. I., Series III.)

When writing of the *Spermophilae* in this series (*vide* last vol., pages 185-6, and 245-7) I omitted to include the following two species.

Parva Finch *(Spermophila parva).* By the kindness of our members Messrs. Suggitt and Sutcliffe, I have had quite a few of this species, but found them rather short-lived; at the same time I should not class them as delicate. Apparently this species only reaches the full mature plumage by several stages and some of my specimens were lost while passing through one or other of them. When my acquisitions arrived it almost appeared as if they consisted of three or four species, as they represented, all, or several, of the aforementioned changes Of those that survived over a year and reached adult-plumage, three at least were very dissimilar in plumage when they reached me, and instead of pairs as I had hoped, all proved to be males. Securing two hens later, from the same source, I had hopes of an unusual breeding success, but it was not to be for they made no attempt to nest. In late Autumn I took one pair into the birdroom and left the others out of doors, but unfortunately the whole of them died during the winter, and so ended my experience with this species.

So far as I remember, neither Mr. Suggett nor Mr. Sutcliffe had any better luck than myself, though they had quite a number of them. Incidentally, I think that the above instance was *S. parva's* first introduction to English aviculture

As the species has not yet been bred in captivity in this country I cannot state whether free breeders or not. Apparently they are not free freeders, or among those in our three aviaries (I think a few pairs also went to other aviculturists) there should have proved to be at least one breeding pair.

Right or wrongly, I do not consider this species should be left out of doors during the winter, not, at any rate, in a district where soil or atmosphere is humid.

This wee Grosbeak is a pretty little chap when adult, a colour arrangement of glossy black, warm brown, and white. The female is clad in olive-brown, lighter on the under parts Both sexes have the white speculum on their wings.

It is a striking bird in the aviary, and is soon seen owing to its contrasty plumage. It vivacious and alert. The male has a sweet little song.

Habitat. Texas to Mexico.

PLUMBEOUS FINCH *(S. plumbea)*. This plainly clad Grosbeak was at one period not uncommon on the bird-market but though it had been on the market for many years, I do not know of any record of it being successfully bred.

In 1912 a pair came into my possession; these successfully passed the winter out of doors. The following spring they made an unsuccessful attempt to reproduce their kind. In the early summer a second and more successful attempt was made, but though the young lived for some time after their exit from the nest, they disappeared during the autumn, and I did not claim the record. Quite a bulky nest was constructed, cup-shaped, with quite a deep cup. It was a very tidy, substantial and shapely structure, the materials used in its construction being grass and bents, lined with fine grass and a few feathers. Four eggs were laid and three young birds were hatched out, two of which lived to leave the nest and to disport themselves in the aviary for about two months. They showed no signs of illness, but were apparently strong and vigorous. I missed them before the cold weather came. In the spring clean I found several skeletons (picked up from the ground) which by their stout bills were undoubtedly *Spermophilae*, two of the largest of which I assumed to be the remains of the two young Plumbeous Finches.

The Plumbeous Finch cannot be called an attractive bird. It is of heavy and clumsy form, dull, sombre plumage, without any pleasing variegation, and possesses but little song; in fact may be termed the unmusical member of a family of talented musicians. Its principal interest lies in the fact that it is an unbred species, i.e. young have never been bred, so far as I know, to reach mature plumage.

It is one of the hardiest members of the *Spermophila* family, and can be successfully wintered out of doors.

Habitat. Brazil, extending into Bolivia.

BAR-BREASTED FIREFINCH *(Lagonosticta rufopicta)*: Dr E. Hopkinson presented me with a male and two females, from a consignment which he brought over when coming home on leave, in 1912 I think. They were in faultless condition and did well all through the summer, but the autumn proved cold and very wet, and I missed them in September; a search amid the herbage brought to light their bodies partly decomposed.

In all respects, as to hardness and endurance, they are on a par with the Common Firefinch, of which details have already been given and need not be repeated here.

I have no note of this species having been successfully bred in this country.

CHERRY FINCH *(Aidemosyne modesta).* As I have already written an article on this species fairly recently, but little space need be occupied with it here.

It is quite ready to go to nest and lay clutches of eggs, but it is not a prolific breeder; few young are hatched out, and less still fully reared.

The nest is a fairly bulky sphere, with an entrance hole at the front. It is a more compactly and neatly built structure than the exterior leads one to suppose, as the ends of the grasses and bents, of which it is composed, are allowed to project, imparting a ragged and untidy appearance externally to what is really a neat and well constructed nest.

The eggs are white, and the average incubation period is thirteen days.

My last specimens, two pairs, were received in 1916 (a gift from our member Mr. Arnold, who privately imported a limited number of them); one cock died a few weeks after arrival, and an incursion of rats robbed me of the others, but not before several nests had been built and young hatched out, but not reared. One of these nests was kindly drawn by Mrs. A. M Cook (*vide* Vol. viii., N.S., p. 266).

They are hardy, and can be successfully wintered out of doors.

They are very pretty, modest little birds, having similar habits and characteristics to the well known Silverbill. Though somewhat plainly clad, their prettily contrasted plumage makes them quite conspicuous objects in the aviary, and they are mostly " in the picture."

They are natives of Australia.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCH *(Munia castaneithorax).* A very handsome Australian Mannikin, which has not been freely bred in English aviaries, though several aviculturists have had young fully reared in their aviaries; but only on one occasion has this been my happy experience.

They are fairly active in a roomy aviary and make a very pleasing addition to a mixed series. I have kept a fair number of them at different times and always found them quite inoffensive, yet well able to look after themselves,

It is a hardy species and can be successfully wintered out of doors.

DUFRESNE'S FINCH *(Lagonosticta dufresni).* An exquisite little finch, the harmony and blending of its beautiful plumage being perfect—a perfect picture!

It has not, I think, been bred in English aviaries, if it has I have failed to note the record.

Its general treatment, habits and characteristics are those of the Common Firefinch, and space need not be occupied with recapitulation.

Its powers of endurance are about on a par with those of *L. minima.* It should be brought indoors for the winter months, though in a sheltered aviary, where the subsoil is sand or gravel, it has, and can be, successfully wintered out of doors

GOLD-FRONTED FINCH *(Metaponia pusilla).* This is a very pretty species, and may well be described as a glorified Lesser Redpoll, which bird it resembles in contour, size and general characteristics.

I received, in 1914, a consignment ex Mr. Appleby, but I was not at all successful in keeping this species. All were in good plumage on arrival, and though the bulk of them lived for several months, then they began to drop off one or two at a time, and all had succumbed before the autumn passed.

A pair, which I put in the aviary in May, appeared to settle down at once, a nest was built high up in a tall privet, but no eggs were deposited therein. A second nest was started, and I found the hen dead beneath it, and found the cock similarly about a week later. It was a hot summer, and the cause of death (several bodies were examined) with most of them was cerebral hemorrhage.

I hope, now peace is practically attained, to obtain more of this pretty species and expect better luck.

MELBA FINCH *(Pytelia melba)*. A beautiful and well known African finch, but which has only once been bred in captivity, Mr. H. Willford being the successful aviculturist.

It has fair powers of endurance, but should be wintered indoors; it has been successfully wintered out of doors, but it is apt to feel sudden weather changes even in summer—an unexpected severe frost and bitter night after a very hot day killed a pair in my aviary in June 1917—and any abnormally severe weather coming suddenly would probably be fatal to them. If any attempt be made to winter them out of doors. it would be a wise precaution to shut them up in the shelter each night between October 1st and May 1st inclusive.

PARROT FINCH *(Erythrura psittacea)*. A beautiful finch, resplendently clad in rich grass-green and red.

It has never been common on the English market, though quite a few have come to hand at varying periods. It has always commanded a high price.

While one hesitates to call this a free breeder, yet one or two fortunate aviculturists, who have secured " breeding pairs," have bred them in fair numbers.

It is not a long-lived species, though there are notable exceptions to this rule, and though not delicate, they " shuffle off " when apparently fit and in perfect plumage.

One difficulty in the way of freely breeding the species is the similarity of the sexes, consequently the difficulty of securing true pairs. Only the wealthy can buy a quantity of these beautiful and costly birds in the hope of true pairs being among them.

Small Birds' Struggles.

TOO MANY BIRDS OF PREY.

Reprinted from *THE TIMES*, Jan. 23rd, with thanks and apologies to the Editor and Proprietor. Cutting per Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.—Ed. " B.N."

" Bird life is still struggling to recover from the calamity of the " great frost two years ago. Most species suffered much more than " decimation in that bitter winter, followed by a wintry spring; of our " resident species probably more than half perished, while the proportion " was still higher among many of the more delicate kinds. It will take 20 " or 30 mild seasons before England regains its modest handful of Dartford " warblers—a species which does not migrate, like most of its kin, but " lurks throughout the year in the southern heaths and furze-brakes. The " still frailer goldcrest had become familiar of recent years in most " plantations of garden firs; and in winter great numbers flocked to " England from Scandinavia. At least four-fifths of all these goldcrests " were destroyed; but now again, when the winter sun strikes warm on " some spruce or Austrian pine, we see an occasional pair of them flashing " their bright crowns among the pine tassels, and hear their slender cry. " Lapwings now beat about the country in fair-sized flocks; song-thrushes, " which frost always hits so much harder than blackbirds, are heard in half " or two-thirds of their old numbers on mild days. Bullfinches, which " became nearly as rare as goldcrests, are again seen slipping now and then " among the rose-hips in briary lanes. Even the robins and hege-sparrows " are only slowly regaining their old numbers; there will be many a primrose bank, again this spring, without its familiar robin's nest.

" The great decrease of most garden and woodland birds is partly " masked by the increase of a few conspicuous species. The fir plantations " which used to be filled with the delicate rivulets of the goldcrests' songs " now echo to the screech of jays. Jays are beautiful and cunning birds; " they build a fascinating nest—not even the bullfinch can smooth fine roots " into so sleek a cup; and formerly, in the days of excessive game-preserving, we saw too little of them. The jay is not rare now; he " abounds. His varied diet and fondness for sheltered woodlands helped " him through the great frost: his mate lays the goodly number of six " eggs, when May brings kindly weather! and for several springs she has " been free from her one great enemy, the game-keeper. Many country-dwellers have learnt outstanding facts about the jay—such as its greed " for peas, the harshness of its voice, unequalled among British birds, and " its bloodthirsty ingenuity in birds'-nesting. We have now too many " jays; and the same is true of carrion crows and of magpies. Both are " very interesting birds, which formerly were almost banished from many " districts; but Nature left to herself has overdone them. It is not good " to take from us so many of our sweetest singers and best gardening " allies, and to foster these predatory species, which systematically persecute the small birds which still remain.

" Frost and the absence of gamekeepers have played havoc with the " balance of English bird life. In very many English districts we have " now that scarcity of small birds which is characteristic of the woods and " fields of France, and the comparative abundance of large birds which is " closely bound up with it. Magpies, carrion crows, jays, and sparrow- " hawks all feed on small birds, their eggs, or their young; and as these " birds of prey increase, song-birds and the insect-eaters, so welcome in " gardens, inevitably diminish. Even the kestrel-hawk, which has also " very much increased, is an enemy to small-bird life, for though kestrels " seldom touch small birds of any kind, the small birds' puny wits do not " distinguish between kestrels and more dangerous hawks, and fly from " them. The mousing windhover is so fascinating as well as beneficial a " bird that his involuntary bird-scaring should not be pressed against him. " It is pleasant to see him hovering motionless, or circling, with his fine " falcon's outlines, on almost every country walk in these days. Sparrow- " hawks are hardly yet abundant enough in most districts to be a serious " check on the recovery of small birds. But it is high time to wage war " once more on magpies, carrion crows, and jays, which are largely birds " of prey by habit, although they are all crows by race, and not of the " hawk or eagle tribe. Another bird of prey which modern science has " pushed far away from the " raptores " is the little owl. This is not a " native British species, but has now spread over more than half England " as the result of some doubtfully judicious, but extremely successful, " experiments in acclimatization. It preys occasionally, and as it were for " a pretext of virtue, on a few rats and mice; but it has a far keener " appetite for small birds. Its cat-like screams at dusk are as untuneful " as the hoot of the brown owl is pleasing, and instead of calling, like the " brown owl, in the solitude of distant woods, it delights to shout " Boo " " or " Yow " at one's very elbow. This original, but on the whole " objectionable, bird has thriven mightily during the suspension of game- " preserving, and is becoming a widespread bane.

" The frosts of 1917 mainly affected our resident birds, such as " thrushes, finches, and robins, although the return of bitter weather in " April killed some of the summer birds of passage, and interfered with " the nesting of others. But the excess of birds of prey bears tyrannously " on most small birds alike. The future of game-preserving in this country " is uncertain; it is unlikely ever to be as widespread and Draconian as it " was some years before the war. From the bird-lover's point of view, " this is not so satisfactory as it might seem. Gamekeepers and their " masters were very hard on the birds of prey; but a strictly preserved " pheasant cover was a wonderful paradise of nightingales, and of all such " birds as the most ignorant and prejudiced keeper did not accuse of " interfering with his pheasants. Crows are as well hated by farmers and " shepherds as by gamekeepers, and when jays once attack a garden no " pest is worse. As country life settles down into its new routine there " will be a widespread determination again to reduce the numbers of these "birds of prey. The wise bird-lover will not regret a considerable "diminution of them; for their inherent enmity to the smaller kinds of "birds is particularly mischievous when the climate has lately dealt them "such a deadly stroke."

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The Grey Warbler.

By J. Drummond, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

Reprinted from *The New Zealand Herald* (date of issue lost) with our best thanks to Author and Editor—cutting per Mr. F. Howe.—Ed. "B.N."

The little Grey Warbler's nest is more strongly constructed, more ingenious, more highly finished, and more artistic than the nest of any other native small bird with the exception, perhaps, of the Fantail. The Grey Warbler is one of the cleverest bird architects in these parts. It has two distinct types of nests. In both types the nests are suspended from branches, but one type of nest is shaped like a soda-water bottle, and the other like a pear. The former is about 6in. long, and usually is distinguished by a porch, placed deftly over the hole that gives entry to the cosy interior. One of these nests was found at Hororata a short time ago by boys at the school, and was taken to Mr. G. Quartermain, the master. The care with which the little birds set about the building of these nests is demonstrated by the fact that one is seldom found without having, amongst the materials of which it is constructed, the dull green cocoons of the meadow spider. The web of these cocoons is strong and adhesive, and is used for binding together leaves and other materials for suspending the nest to the supporting branch, and also, sometimes, for making a comfortable lining to the walls of the interior. To human eyes almost the same result could be obtained by the use of cocoons or webs belonging to any other spider, or by the use even of some other material, but the birds prefer the cocoons of these particular spiders, and will have nothing else.

To satisfy their taste in this respect they must spend much time searching for the material, as meadow spiders are not as plentiful as they might be. Another spider, closely related to the species that receives the Grey Warbler's attention, makes yellowish cocoons, but although probably, the only difference is in colour, these are never used. The dull green cocoons harmonise with the other materials of which the nests are made, and perhaps are some aid in concealment. Unless this fact weighs in the Grey Warbler's mind it is difficult to guess why the preference should be given to green instead of to white, yellow or black. The porch is made very ingeniously. The entrance hole is about an inch wide and an inch and a quarter long. The threshold is reinforced with rootlets, bound round and round by spiders' web and woolly material, until it becomes like a tiny hawser as large as a twig. This evidently is to strengthen the nest at the place where the bird alights, and where there must be considerable strain. The bird's claws can encircle the threshold and hold tight while the bird puts its head inside and feeds the young at the bottom. Without the reinforcement on the threshold the front of the nest might be torn and severely damaged. The materials used in the general scheme of construction are deftly drawn outwards over the top of the whole, and the porch is formed, projecting about a quarter of an inch. The porch protects the hole to some extent from wind and rain, but does not serve the purpose of a door. From an artistic point of view it is very valuable, as it adds as much to the appearance of the nest as a verandah adds to the appearance of a cottage.

The other type of nest is rounder and more pear-shaped, and does not always possess a porch. In addition, the material is not so fine. Cocoons of the meadow spider are freely used, but the general appearance is rougher and coarser. Between these two types there are individual nests of different styles, but the general design is followed in them all. In Canterbury Museum there is a nest almost as round as a ball, made mostly of sheeps' wool and leaves. Sir Walter Buller had a series of nests of different shapes, some long and elliptical, some short and round, some plain, and some ornamented with the leaves of the gum treet, which hung to the outside like red streamers. In all cases the back of the nest is straight, the front silghtly convex. Sir Walter Buller believed that the exact shape was the result of accident, the architects altering details of the general design to meet the requirements of different circumstances.

To be Concluded.

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Obituary.

REV. J. MAPLETOFT PATERSON.—We much regret to announce the death of the above at Srinagar, India, in October last. F.B.C. loses an able contributor and generous supporter who will be much missed—the writer mourns the loss of a personal friend. The following reprint from the *Lahore Diocesan Magazine*, so aptly describes him, as the writer knew him, that we reproduce it in *extenso*.

THE LATE REV. J. M. PATERSON.

"John Mapletoft Paterson came of a family who had been soldiers " for generations. It was a deep spiritual experience in his undergraduate " days at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, that led him to take Holy " Orders. He came out to India some 25 years or more ago under the " Church Missionary Society, and worked at St. John's College, Agra, and " then at Gorakhpur, Agra and Bharatpur as Evangelistic Missionary. In " England for some years he worked as Vicar of Hollington, St. Leonards. " But his heart was in India, and he came back again once more as a " Missionary, to Karachi . Just three years ago he was appointed Chaplain " of Srinagar and has worked there ever since. It is not altogether easy "in the case of one who was a close personal friend, to lay one's finger "exactly on what was the secret of the man's power and charm, but if I had "to try, I should say that it was that he was so pre-eminently a *man*. A "very keen sportsman all his life, he had a record of which any man might "be proud. He played for his County, Somersetshire, at Rugby Football, "while still at the University, and all his life retained all his keenness for "games. A useful Cricketer, a fine Golfer and a dead shot, up to the end "he kept his love for the open, the links, the jungle and the river. He "loved nature in all her forms, and knew much about the life and ways of "birds and beasts, and in the last years of his life took up with considerable "success the difficult art of bird photography. A walk in the jungle with "Paterson made one realise how much the trained observer sees and hears "to which one is deaf and blind. And with it all his sport was always "kept in its right place in the strictest subordination to his work. It gave "him many links with men in which he never forgot his high calling. I "think to me the charm of his religion was its simplicity, directness and "utter sincerity. A man of tremendous natural strength of will, long ago "he had yielded up that will to God and the result was a character that "grew mellowed and beautiful with the years. Somebody has said "'Death shows what is at the bottom of the vessel,' and the utter selflessness "with which he thought of others during an illness that was intensely "painful made a profound impression on all those who came in contact "with him. The deepest and most respectful sympathy will go out "throughout the Diocese to Mrs. Paterson and his son and daughters in "their great loss, and the whole Diocese will feel that, to speak as men "speak, we have lost one whom we can very ill spare, a true man, a true "Priest and a brother."

To Mrs. Paterson and family we tender our deepest sympathy in their bereavement. W.T.P.

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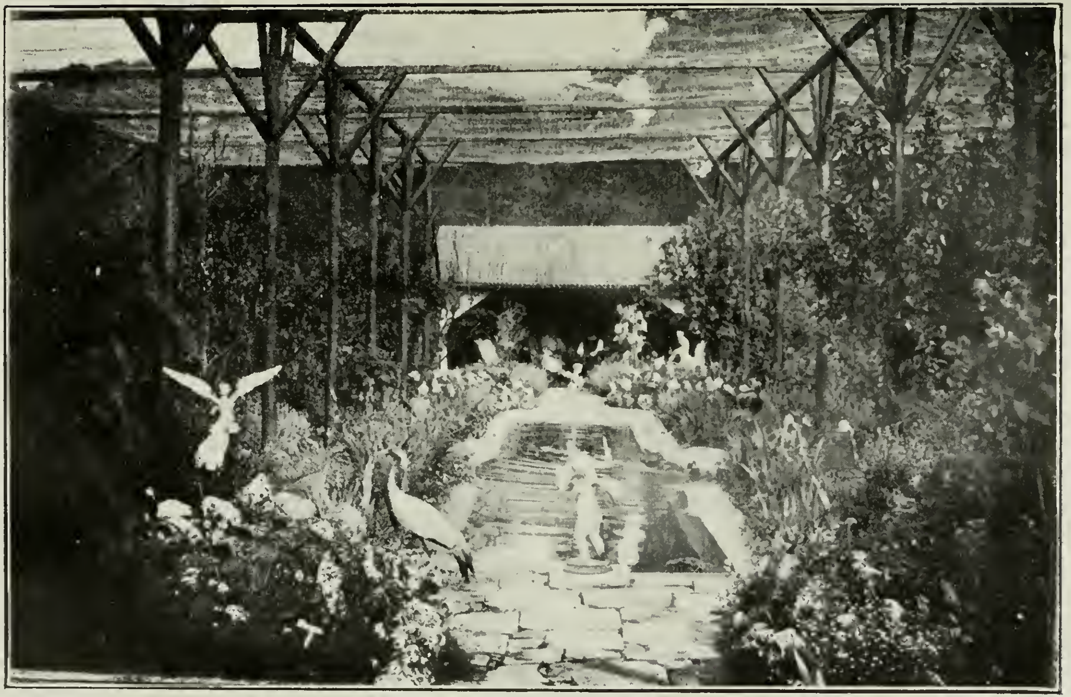
THE LATE CAPT. GILBERT KENNEDY.

With much regret we record the death of this officer, in hospital at Calais, from heart failure following an attack of influenza. He commenced his military career in the Indian army, being attached to the Gurkha Rifles. About 1912 he transferred to the English army, and served throughout the war, being wounded in the foot in the Somme push of 1917. He was in active service up to the time of his death. He was a keen aviculturist and bird-lover, and an enthusiastic observer of wild bird-life. He was an ardent supporter of F.B.C. and its Journal, and will be much missed. A personal friend of the writer's, and another, among many, whose voice and pen the war has silenced for ever. To his mother, wife, and family we tender our sincere sympathy in their great sorrow. W.T.P.



The Large Aviary at Ewhurst Park.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Aviaries and Birds at Ewhurst Park.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Recently I enjoyed the hospitality of the Duchess of Wellington, and, of course, viewed her aviaries and birds, that really being the object of my visit.

After lunch, at which it is needless to state the talk was mainly avicultural, we went out to see the birds, or rather first went upstairs to the birdroom, where a few of the birds are housed for the winter months. The birdroom is a small, well-lighted room fitted up with branches, etc., and, writing from memory, contained Gouldian Finches, a Pekin Robin, a Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, Long-tailed Grassfinches, a hen Red-headed Finch and sundry other weavers, finches, and waxbills. The room as admirably adapted for the purpose, and being fitted with a H.W. radiator a comfortable temperature can be maintained irrespective of the weather.

There was also a cage in the window of one of the rooms containing three Gouldian Finches.

The first aviary visited was unoccupied, but is to be peopled this season with Budgerigars and Lovebirds, which should thrive therein—though, the shelter being mostly glass will probably be very cold in winter and intensely hot in summer, still the wind has abundant play therein and should modify this to some extent. A covering of felt over the glass roof would materially improve this aviary (*i.e.* in the writer's opinion).

The next aviaries visited were a series of three or four, with open fronted shelters, but partially screened with creepers. The flights 8′ to 10′ wide, were some 30 feet, or more, long and 8′ to 9′ high; bushes being arranged along each side, with creepers growing over the netting, and the effect should be wild and picturesque in the summer. The first of this series was given up to Indigo Buntings *(Cyanospiza cyanea)*, Bullfinches Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Canaries. I was very pleased to see in this aviary an adult pair of Indigo Finches and their young, the male parent and his young son were both showing patches of the azure nuptial plumage. This species is not freely bred in English aviaries, the instances of successful rearing of young being quite isolated. This pair of birds nested thrice during the season, and six young ones were fully reared, but three of them were killed by the canaries in an adjoining aviary, to which the young, when able to fend for themselves, were removed on the advice of some visiting aviculturist. Probably they were moved too young, as they should have been able to hold their own with canaries, there were canaries also in the aviary in which they reared. When the mishap was discovered the remaining three were caught up and returned to their parents and did well. They have been left out of doors all the winter, and a letter, received only a few days ago, informs me that they are still out and doing well. I am not greatly interested in Canaries and I did not note these much, but they were fine birds, in the pink of condition, and certainly made a beautiful picture amid their wild surroundings. They live out of doors all the year round and a good many young are reared in the course of the year.

The next and last aviary we visited was rather a huge affair (*vide* frontispiece), and appealed to me most of all. It would look lovely when in spring or summer dress, though to my mind, it lacked winter cover, owing to most of the trees and bushes being deciduous; this defect is in the course of being remedied. A huge bay tree was evidently appreciated by the birds and I noticed traces of the past season's nesting operations therein.

This aviary is, I should say, at least 100′ long, by about 40′ to 50′ wide. It is merely an enclosed space, and span-roofed, central portion flat. The wire netting being stretched on wood framing, it varies from 10′ to 20′ high. The shelters (two are placed inside and are open fronted, the cover being supplied by dense masses of twiggy branches and bushwood, The time of my visit was mid-January, and, though the aviary is a somewhat exposed one, I must say all the birds looked in the pink of condition, and not at all distressed by the bitterly cold, and exceedingly wet weather prevailing. In fact I could not have viewed the aviaries under more adverse conditions.

In this aviary I noted the following birds (not a complete list, I think):—

1 pair Senegal Doves *(Turtur senegalensis)*
1 ,, Zebra Finches *(Taeniopygia castonotis)*.
1 ,, Siskins *(Chrysomitris spinus)*.
1 ,, Giant Whydahs *(Chocra procne)*.
1 ,, Californian Quail *(Excalfactoria californica)*.
1 ,, Green Singingfinches *(Serinus icterica)*, and three young.
1 ,, Mandarin Ducks *(Aex galericulata)*.
1 ,, Carolina Ducks *(Aex sponsa)*.
1 ,, Japanese Teal *(Nettium formosum)*.
2 ,, Bullfinches *(Pyrrhula europaea)*.
7 ,, Goldfinches *(Carduelis elegans)*.
3 Pope Cardinals *(Paroaria larvata)*.

The most notable event in this aviary was the nesting of Giant Whydahs, two young being hatched out, these lived to make their exit from the nest and for some time afterwards but died before the autumn. The Duchess of Wellington is a new adherent to aviculture, and thinks she probably lost them owing to a lack of live insect food. She informed me that the parent birds fed the young with caterpillars from a gooseberry bush, which was growing near the bush which contain the nest, and, when these were exhausted and the young foraging for themselves, she concluded that they failed to find sufficient animal food to sustain themselves; she states that they appeared to be very fine and strong young birds, and were very active and strong on the wing.

It is rather an interesting point *Chocra procne* rearing its young on caterpillars from a gooseberry bush, as presumably these were the larvæ of the Magpie Moth *(Abraxas grossulariata)*,* which are nauseus to most species of birds, and protected by their striking colouration. I have had Chaffinches eat them in my aviary, but only when no other animal food was available, and there are few species of English birds which will touch them, though the Cuckoo will take them freely.

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* More probably G. Sawfly larvae *(Nematis ribis)*. G. H. R.

* These I found equally distasteful to the birds under similar conditions. W.T.P.

I think myself, that had there been a moderate supply o. mealworms, wasps' grubs, live ants' cocoons, etc., the young whydahs would have survived, basing this opinion, of course, upon the limited data given me.

I find I have said nothing as to the method of the ground arrangement in this aviary. In the centre is a pool some 25 feet long by 5 or 6 feet wide, upon which the Ducks disport themselves, with iris and other aquatic plants round the margin. There are several beds containing various rock and other plants with stone-paved and gravel paths around same and also round the pond, enabling one to move about the aviary freely without trampling on the grass and herbage. Most of the trees are cordon and bush fruit trees (apple, pear, etc.), which would look charming in the spring, but do not supply sufficient cover for the bird. However, this defect will not exist in the coming season, as a good number of evergreen bushes, conifers and privet are being planted; and a very successful season should result.

I regret there is only one photo to illustrate these notes, but I hope the Duchess of Wellington will have photos taken later when the aviaries are in summer dress, and send them with an account of the season's doings for publication in the Club Journal.

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Breeding the Golden-Breasted Waxbill.

By Lucy Dutton.

Being very much in love with the Golden-breasted or Zebra Waxbill *(Sporaeginthus subflavus)*, and most desirous of breeding that species in my aviary, I purchased a pair from a dealer early in May last (1901). Though the birds on arrival were not in good plumage (being minus their tails) they were certainly healthy, and I was glad to be able to turn them into my sunny aviary, after a few days quarantine only. Here they soon improved in appearance, and their lively ways were most interesting, the male bird being a splendid little fellow, who seemed to glory in dancing to his mate with a feather in his beak twice the size of himself.

Towards the middle of August I noticed Mr. Waxy was particularly anxious to build in a small shrub growing by the entrance door, and would carry heaps of feathers into a nest of hay I had already put there. There was, however, little or no joy for the birds in selecting this position, as they were robbed unmercifully by their companions, and I began to think their nesting successfully with me was out of the question—my Zebra Finches, Bengalese, and other Waxbills having taken possession of all the other suitable nesting boxes. I would not be discouraged, however. In a very snug and sheltered corner of the aviary, I hung up a small wicker cage, with some nice hay and a few feathers inside. This, to me, seemed an ideal spot, and I hoped my pretty Gold-breasts would soon inspect the new premises, and decide to set up housekeeping immediately. I was not disappointed. The nest was complete, and about September 24th I noticed the birds were sitting closely—first one and then the other—and, seeing their anxiety whenever an inquisitive individual approached, I concluded they had either eggs or young. I was quite right in my surmises, for, on going into the aviary a week later, I found a tiny dead bird on the ground, just underneath the nest. My high hopes I thought, were not to be realised. But as time went on, I could distinctly hear young birds being fed, and, from the noise they made, I came to the conclusion that there were at least five or six. The old birds were capital feeders, and ate heartily of spray and white millet, egg-food, and grass in the ear. What I particularly observed during the time of rearing was this—the parents were always very busy hunting the aviary wires, the turf, and the roof of an outhouse, over which the covered part of the aviary is erected—apparently in search of insect food (gnats I suppose); and aphides from the rose trees and sweet peas planted against the wires outside.

My anxiety at this time was, I confess, very great, and my curiosity to see young Gold-breasts leave the nest not a bit less. But for this I had to wait till the morning of *October 28th*, when to my delight I saw two tiny birds fly to the ground. They were fully fledged, had black beaks, and were of a uniform brown, with the exception of the underparts which were light in colour. Surely these healthy birds, in the pink of condition, would be reared! I never dreamed otherwise. But alas! there came a night when my spirits sank considerably below zero! It was the first day of November. The parents were anxious to nest again, and I suppose thought it high time their young should shift for themselves. Next morning I found one of the two dead—the other flying, doing so (apparently in the best of health) for another week or ten days, when it also succumbed. The old birds had built a new nest and obstinately refused to feed their young the last thing at night, or to admit them in to their nest, so they fretted and died. Had they been fed a day or two longer, I feel convinced I should now be the proud possessor of a couple of outdoor-aviary-bred Gold-breasts.

Of course the season was too late to expect such birds to be reared, but I have strong hopes of being successful next season.

I may add that in the same aviary I have been most successful in breeding Bengalese and Zebra Finches, having reared two nests of six and five of the former, and splendid birds, too.

Reprinted from "Bird Notes," Vol. I, page 66 (1902).

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Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

Platycerci and Barnardii.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 30).

Corrigenda.—On page 29, line 23 should read: *for catching up sick birds; also sparrows which steal the food and run up an exhorbitant food bill.*

Rosella Parrakeet *(Platycercus eximius).*

The Rosella is the commonest and most freely imported broadtail and is certainly one of the most beautiful; few birds can equal an old cock in brilliance and variety of plumage combined with perfect harmony of colours and delicacy of marking. The sexes are much alike but the hen is usually considerably duller in colouring and has a smaller head and beak. She has also a few tiny greenish feathers round the eye, which are always absent in the adult male and, as a rule, white spots near the base of some of the flight feathers. Young cocks have these white spots also, but old ones hardly ever. The green feathers round the eye I have found to be the most reliable indication of sex. I have never seen the most brilliantly coloured hen entirely without them, nor an adult cock who possessed the least vestige of green at the back of the eye. Young birds are less brightly coloured and clearly marked than their parents and show less red and more green. They grow gradually brighter during the course of the first year and by mid-winter a practised eye can pick out the cocks from the hens. Full adult plumage is assumed at the first complete moult, which takes place when the birds are about 14 months old. Other nearly allied species resemble the Rosella in this respect and the statement that *Platycercine* parrakeets take "three or four years" to assume adult plumage is incorrect. Rosellas are double-brooded and the hen often starts to lay again before the first lot of young have left the nest. No anxiety need be felt, for it is a perfectly natural proceeding and the cock can be trusted to attend to the wants of his first family without neglecting his sitting mate. The young are fed by the parents for some little time after leaving the nest. As they are rather inclined to dash about at first and injure themselves against the wire, it is wise to fix up plenty of twiggy branches as a screen at the end of the flight; also to make some extra provision in the way of overhead shelter against heavy rain. These precautions should be adopted when an interesting brood of parrakeets of any species are expected to get on the wing; nothing is more vexatious than to pick up a beautiful young bird with a broken neck or to find it on the ground drenched and dead after a thunderstorm in the night.

Rosellas show a certain amount of variation according to the district from which they come; the handsomest race is the so-called "yellow-mantled," formerly described as a separate species—*Platycercus splendidus*—; it differs from the common form in having the feathers of the mantle edged with golden yellow, instead of pale green. Tasmanian birds are also very fine and often have a line of red feathers running down the entire centre of the breast.

PENNANT'S PARRAKEET *(Platycercus elegans).* Next to the Rosella, the most freely imported species; the adult in its rich plumage of crimson and blue is a strikingly handsome bird. No member of the family shows to better advantage at liberty. A pair gliding with lazy, graceful flight across an open space against a background of green trees, or sitting among bare branches with the winter sun shining on them, is a sight not easily forgotten. Only birds thoroughly steady and accustomed to aviary life should be released, as newly imported ones are given to straying, even after they have apparently quite settled down. The sexes are alike in colour, but the female has a decidedly smaller head and narrower beak and after a little experience it becomes an easy matter to sex even single birds by this difference. On first leaving the nest young birds are normally green with a little red round the throat and some blue in the wings and tail. Red feathers make their appearance in an irregular fashion among the green until the first moult, when the whole of the remaining green plumage is discarded. Pennants are double-brooded. Like the Rosella, *P. elegans* shows considerable local variation, some races having much more black in the plumage than others. In the north a very small form occurs, but I have never met with it in captivity.

PORT ADELAIDE PARRAKEET *(Platycercus adelaidae).* Somewhat smaller than the Pennant, the Port Adelaide parrakeet will I suspect prove to be nothing but a hybrid between that bird and the yellow-rump. In all its characteristics it is intermediate between the two species and although it breeds true to type, it is common to meet some individuals almost as red as Pennants and others almost as yellow as Yellow-rumps. Some Adelaides are very handsome, reminding one in their plumage of the rich and varied tints of an autumn landscape. Young birds in immature dress are often mistaken for, and sold as, young Pennants, but they may easily be distinguished by their smaller size and by the distinctly yellowish olive tint of their feathers. Young Pennants are deep leaf green and such red feathers as they possess are rich crimson and not brick red or pinkish red as in the case of young Adelaides.

YELLOW-RUMPED PARRAKEET *(Platycercus flaveolus).* This is a rare bird in captivity and not unlikely to become extinct in its own country. Young birds are said to be much greener than adults, and the sexes may be distinguished by the size of the head and beak. The only two Yellow-rumps I have owned were extremely quarrelsome and one met its death, while at liberty, in a battle with a Bauer's parrakeet.

YELLOW-BELLIED PARRAKEET *(Platycercus flaviventris).* A Tasmanian species somewhat rarely imported which bears a resemblance to the Yellow-rump, but may be distinguished by its dark green wings and shoulders. The female differs from the male in her smaller head and narrower beak and the young have much greener breasts than adults.

MEALY ROSELLA PARRAKEET *(Platycercus pallidiceps).* Somewhat larger than the common Rosella; the female is a little duller in colouring than the male, is slightly smaller and has a smaller head and beak. Young birds have a faint greenish wash over the entire plumage and the blue and yellow feathers are consequently less brilliant. Some individuals have a number of red feathers on the crown of the head, while in parts of north Australia a pretty local race occurs with deep blue cheek patches and a rather greenish back: this bird is described by Gould as a distinct species—*P. amathusia;* it is not often imported alive.

The Mealy Rosella is double-brooded. Both Mealy Rosellas and Brown's have a violent antipathy to Blue-bonnet Parrakeets.

BROWN'S PARRAKEET *(Platycercus browni).* Certainly one of the most beautiful of Australian parrakeets. The male has a large and more brilliant patch of violet feathers on the wing and possesses a heavier head and more powerful beak than his mate. For some reason males are rare in captivity, and at any time the number of females to be obtained in this country is out of all proportion to that of males. Consequently one must be on one's guard against buying two hens as a pair. The species is double-brooded under favourable conditions. If kept at liberty Brown's are best caught up for the winter, as they are hardly large enough to protect themselves against owls.

Stanley Parrakeet *(Platycercus icterotis).* The smallest of the *Platycerci* and the only one the sexes of which can be distinguished at a glance, the dull and patchy tints of the female's breast being a marked contrast to the brilliant crimson of the male. The female has also duller cheek patches and less deep blue on the wing. Young birds resemble their mother but their plumage is duller and has more green in it. The majority of Stanleys are single-brooded, but occasionally a pair will go to nest twice. Stanleys are too small to be left at liberty when the trees are bare.

Barnard's Parrakeet *(Barnardius barnardi).* Parrakeets of the sub-genus *Barnardius* may be considered for avicultural purposes as ordinary *Platycerci* and all that applies to the latter applies to them as far as general management is concerned. Barnard's Parrakeet is a very beautiful bird and a trifle less quarelsome than other broadtails. The hen is usually duller in plumage than the cock and has always a smaller head and less swollen upper mandible; two broods are reared in the season and the cock is a very patient and devoted father to his numerous offspring.

Port Lincoln or Yellow-naped Parrakeet *(Barnardius semitorquatus).* A very variable species; at one time the small, light coloured race with the yellow lower breast was considered a separate species and named Bauer's Parrakeet, but although a typical specimen shows many points of contrast with the big, all-green, red-fronted variety, every possible intermediate form exists and it is impossible to say where the Bauer ends and the Yellow-naped begins. The size of the head and beak is the only reliable indication of sex, there being no striking difference in plumage. Two broods are reared in a season as in the case of the Barnard. The Port Lincoln is a dangerous fighter, and must never be kept with birds likely to dispute its supremacy. A cock Barnard, at liberty, who unwisely entered into an unfriendly argument with a pair of Port Lincolns I kept some years ago, was literally torn to pieces by them, while a Bauer's Parrakeet, flying loose at the same time, accounted for a Mealy Rosella and a Yellow-rump, by biting off their beaks. Weaker and less pugnacious birds, however, were not injured.

To be continued.

The Lavender Finch.

By Andrew Philip.

Everyone who has possessed this delightful Waxbill *(Lagonosticta caerulescens)* will no doubt agree with me that it is one of the prettiest and most interesting of the Waxbill family. Its beauty of plumage, activity, pretty flight, and the ease with which it is tamed, combined with the low figure at which it can be always purchased, ought to insure its inclusion in every collection.

Lavender Finches are easily kept in perfect health (at least that is my exeperience) on the following dietary: Canary and white millet seed, millet spray, grass seed in the ear (a sod of grass just as pulled out of the earth with the mould attached is a source of great delight), a little sponge cake, with a few ants' eggs, and about a couple of mealworms each daily. Of the latter they are exceedingly fond: they do not eat them like Weavers and insectivorous birds do, but run them along in their beaks, extract the soft parts and leave the skins. When I take up the box of mealworms and open the door of my indoor aviary, they will come at once, perch on my fingers, hands, or arms, all excitement till they get their worm, when they at once go back to the cage to enjoy it at their leisure. The skins they will store away in some corner or coco-nut husk, and unless you are aware of this, and clean out all nests and husks regularly, you will be surprised at the " find " you will discover some morning.

Being exceedingly fond of a bath, they should never be without a plentiful supply of fresh water.

For some time my pair have been turning their attention to setting up house, and take great interest in a converted cigar box decorated with Virginian bark. Next month I intend turning them into an out-door aviary, in the hope that they will breed.

Their love-dance is most entertaining.

Reprinted from " Bird Notes," Vol. I page 160 (1902).

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 39).

Pectoral Finch *(Munia pectoralis).* This is a showy and handsome finch, showy not because of brilliant colouration but owing to the contrasty arrangement of the soft and deep hues of its plumage. It is of mannikin form and demeanour, not dull in the aviary, but is somewhat lethargic when caged.

Though many aviculturists have had this species in pairs it has not been freely bred—recorded instances of success are quite limited. It has never gone to nest in my aviaries, and the birds have generally taken but little notice of each other, though I have possessed at least one true pair. In fact I have never seen the courting dance performed; of course, that is not to say that it has never occurred in my aviaries, but, certainly not in my presence.

I have found them hardy, but a wet, cold autumn tries them, and if losses occur these have usually taken place among my birds during the latter half of September and the early part of the following month. They seem to feel the later bitter winter weather less than the aforementiontd period.

Pileated Finch *(Coryphospingus pileatus).* This bird I have included among the finches merely as a matter of convenience, owing to its popular name, as it is a member of the *Emberizinæ.*

The male is deep slaty-grey above; below it is whitish grey, except the throat, breast, and flanks, which are palish grey; the top of the head is black, with a longitudinal stripe of rich carmine, which the bird erects as a crest when excited; beak, upper mandible greyish-horn, lower whitish-horn.

The female is easily distinguished from the male, as her crest is brown, and she is altogether of a browner hue than her mate.

This species has never nested with me, but I have only had two pairs, which passed the winter comfortably out of doors. They are delightful birds in the aviary, full of character, life and vivacity, in evidence most of the day, spending most of their time in lightning fly-catcher-like flights, but not always returning to the same perch, though very often alighting very near to the starting-point; on alighting the crest is raised and a wondrous flash of blazing carmine momentarily delights the eye.

It has not been freely bred in captivity, though other avicudturlists have been more fortunate than myself; still instances of success have not been at all numerous. In the aviaries of Dr. J. Easton Scott, prior to the war, a pair reared one or more broods in two successive seasons, and I saw one of these broods being fed in the nest, and a little later saw the happy family party feeding and disporting about the aviary.

At the first opportunity I certainly shall again acquire the species.

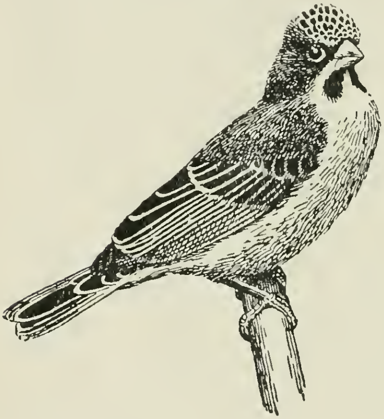
Pintailed Parrot-Finch (*Erythrura prasina*). This is most commonly known as the Pintailed Nonpareil, and it is certainly one of the most beautiful of imported finches. Rich hues adorn its feathered garment, yet each area of colour is so beautifully softened as it merges into the next, that it makes a most exquisite whole. It is so well known that a description need not be given—in fact this article is not intended to include such.

Most aviculturists do not find this a hardy species, but the main difficulty lies in acclimatising them. In exposed aviaries and those on clay sub-soil they should certainly be housed indoors during the winter, though their quarters need not necessarily be heated. Our member, Mr. J. L. Grossmith, had some exquisite specimens, which fed largely upon soaked paddy rice, and at the same time had access to the usual seed *menu* provided for the other birds, but their main diet was the above.

I do not remember to have seen or heard of any record of the successful breeding of this species, though it has been plentiful and cheap on the market in pre-war times. The mortality has been very heavy among new arrivals, and for some years I did not keep them on that account, but once acclimatised and given dry winter quarters they are not a delicate species.

With such a beautiful species, it would form a valuable and interesting topic if a number of our members would give their experiences in keeping it, supplying full details of feeding and general treatment; and I certainly hope there will be a good response to this suggestion.

Scaly-crowned Finch *(Sporopipes squamifrous).* This attractive African finch has only bred once in my aviary and but few aviculturists have had much success with it. One notable exception is our member Mr. W. E. Teschemaker who had a prolific pair, so much so, that he expressed the opinion that for freeness of breeding it would prove a rival to the Zebra Finch. He must have been fortunate in his birds, for I know of no one else who has been similarly successful. If I remember rightly the purchasers of his stock had only mediocre results. Such experience is by no means isolated in foreign bird-keeping and hence has arisen the term "breeding pair"—there is no doubt that among a given number of aviculturists, all with roomy natural aviaries, if pairs of a given species were distributed among them, one or two of them would get excellent results and the others practically no luck at all; though all alike might be skilful and experienced aviculturists.



Scaly-crowned Finch.
Sporopipes squamifrons.

I have had but few of them, and certainly found them ready enough to go to nest, but they proved bad sitters, even when they got as far as eggs; with another member they hatched out young freely, but did not fully rear any.

It is a hardy species, but certainly feels a cold wet autumn, apparently more than the actual winter, and it is during the former period that I have suffered loss when keeping them out of doors. If they safely pass through late September and the first half of October I have felt little fear of losing them during the winter. The hens are less enduring than the cocks, and I have found them rather liable to egg-binding if a cold spell comes during the spring after nesting has commenced. I must, however, qualify the above by stating that I have only had about three pairs of this species, at different periods.

They are charming, active and vivacious birds in the aviary.

(To be continued.)

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Green Singing-Finch x Goldfinch Hybrids.

By Miss R. Alderson.

I think perhaps the following note may be of interest to those members who care for hybrids. In one aviary I have a hen English Goldfinch and a cock Green Singing-finch. Both birds are in fine health and plumage. This summer they have nested twice. The first nest was built close to a Violet Dove's nest, and the two birds sat in perfect harmony within a few inches of each other. Four or five eggs were laid, and the Goldfinch sat well, but unfortunately the nest was destroyed by some other bird. A second nest was made later, and three young ones hatched. One was drowned just as it left the nest. The other two are fine young birds, now over two months old, and one of them is beginning to sing nicely. In size and shape they are rather like a hen Chaffinch. Both birds are showing yellow and orange in the forehead, chin, and wings. The parents were most attentive to the young ones, and probably that is why they were such strong birds. I believe the young one that was drowned was the finest of the three, but I was away from home at the time and did not see it.

Reprinted from "Bird Notes," Vol. I, page 290 (1902).

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 34).

PYCNONOTIDAE.

246—RED-VENTED BULBUL. *Molpastes fuscus.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
RED-VENTED × RED-WHISKERED BULBUL.
Smyth, 1914. See B.N., 1914, 302.

◆

247.—SYRIAN BULBUL. *Pycnontus xanthopygius.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C.
"according to Wiener has been bred in Germany." A.G.B. i. 36.

◆

248.—RED-WHISKERED BULBUL. *Otocompsa emeria.* **W.T.P.**
Teschemaker, 1909. See B.N., 1909, 228.
Hybrids.
× Red-whiskered (Red-vented Bulbul).

◆

249.—WHITE-EARED BULBUL. *O. leucotis.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. 1st Harris/Russ.

◆

MENURIDAE.

250.—LYRE-BIRD. *Menura superba.*
Said to have produced hybrids with the common fowl!
LYRE-BIRD × DOMESTIC FOWL, W.T.P. C.

◆

RHAMPHASTIDAE.

[**251.—SPOT-BILLED TOUCANET.** *Selenidera maculirostris.*
In the Zoo in 1913 one young bird was hatched and lived about a month].

◆

CUCULIDAE.

252.—GUIRA CUCKOO. *Guira guira.* **W.T.P.**

1st Poltimore, 1911. See B.N., 1911, 273.

MUSOPHAGIDAE.

253.—BUFFON'S TURACO. *Turacus buffoni.*
Abroad. Delacourt (France) 1914. See A.M., 1915, 211 and 1917, 58.

254.—FRASER'S TURACO. *T. macrorhynchus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Johnstone, 1906. See A.M., n.s.v. 87.

[**255.—PINK-CRESTED TURACO.** *T. erythrolophus.*
Astley reports (A.M., 1916, 334) incomplete success, the young dying at the commencement of feathering].

COLIIDAE.

256.—STRIATED COLY. *Colius striatus.* **W.T.P.**
1st Wilson, 1912 See B.N., 1912, 281.

CAPRIMULGIDAE.

257.—NIGHTJAR. *Caprimulgus europaeus.*
Abroad. Heinroth in Berlin, 1907. See A.M., 1909, 51.

UPUPIDAE.

258.—HOOPOE. *Upupa epops.* **W.T.P.**
1st M. Arnstein, 1911. See B.N., N.S., II., 221, 257.

ALCEDINIDAE.

259.—LAUGHING JACKASS. *Dacelo gigas.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905. Success. In 1904 two were hatched but not reared.

CORACIIDAE.

260.—ROLLER. *Coracias garrulus.* **W.T.P.**
1st St. Quintin, 1901. A.S. Medal. A.M. vii. 217.

PARROTS.

LORIIDAE.

261.—BLACK LORY. *Chalcopsittacus ater.* **W.T.P.**
1st Brook, 1909. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) 1, 28, and B.N. 1909, 228.

262.—CHATTERING LORY. *Lorius garrulus.* W.T.P

HYBRIDS.

× Chattering Lory (Swainson's Lorikeet).

263.—FORSTEN'S LORIKEET. *Trichoglossus forsteni.* W.T.P.

1st Michell, 1905. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. iv. 24.

264.—JOHNSTONE'S LORIKEET. *T. johnstoniae.* W.T.P.

1st Johnstone. A.S. Medal, 1905. See A.M. n.s. v. 44.

265.—BLACK-THROATED LORIKEET. *T. nigrigularis.*

HYBRIDS.

× Black-throated (Red-collared Lorikeet).

266.—SWAINSON'S LORIKEET. *T. novae-hollandiae.* W.T.P.

Little. See B.N. 1908, 24. " the first time for nearly 30 years " †Page

Abroad. 1st Heublin †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

Bred " on several occasions in Germany and at least once in England." †A.G.B. ii. 135.

HYBRIDS.

SWAINSON'S LORIKEET × CHATTERING LORY.
W.T.P. Hartley, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1913, 358.
SWAINSON'S LORIKEET × RED-COLLARED LORIKEET.
W.T.P. And in Zoo, 1917.

267.—RED-COLLARED LORIKEET. *T. rubritorques.* W.T.P.

1st Zoo, 1910. Since by others. See B.N. 1916, 189, 214.

HYBRIDS.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEET × BLACK-THROATED LORIKEET.
Abroad. Pauwels, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1912, 338 & 1913, 275 (Why the F.B.C. Medal? Surely the event took place in Belgium, not in the United Kingdom.—E.H.).

× Red-collared (Swainson's Lorikeet).

268.—ORNAMENTED LORIKEET. *T. ornatus.*

Abroad. 1st Cornely. †Russ.

269.—SCALY-BREASTED LORIKEET. *Psitteuteles chlorolepidotus.* **W.T.P.**

" According to *Notes on Cage-birds*, (1899), p. 170, it was bred in the winter 1883-84 in London." †A.G.B. ii. 136.

270.—STELLA'S LORY. *Charmosyna stellae.* **W.T.P.**.

1st Brook, 1910. F.B.C. Medal. See B.N. 1910, 363.

271.—FAIR LORIKEET. *Charmosynopsis pulchella.*

1st Brook, 1914. See A.M. 1915. 29.

To be continued.

A Bird Collector's Wanderings.

By Gregory M. Mathews.

An interesting record of the wanderings of Mr. J. P. Rogers, who for six years has been collecting birds in the far north-west of Australia for Mr. Gregory Mathews, the well-known ornithologist, and mammals for the British Museum.

Reprinted from *The Sydney Mail*, with our thanks to the Editor and Author.—Ed. " B.N."

" One of the most interesting fields in Australia for the bird collector is the far nor'-west of the continent. It is for the most part virgin country that has not so far been invaded by introduced birds, many of which, when they become established, drive out the native birds; and foxes have not made their appearance there yet, but unfortunately there are cats—the domestic species that have run wild—and they are playing havoc with the avifauna. I shall have more to say on this subject presently. In the nor'-west the forest primeval still stands, and it is one of the few areas where the fauna and flora conditions are, but for the appearance of these detestable cats, almost exactly the same as when the adventurous Dutchman Dirk Hartog set foot on the shores of Western Australia nearly three hundred years ago."

SIXTY NEW BIRDS.

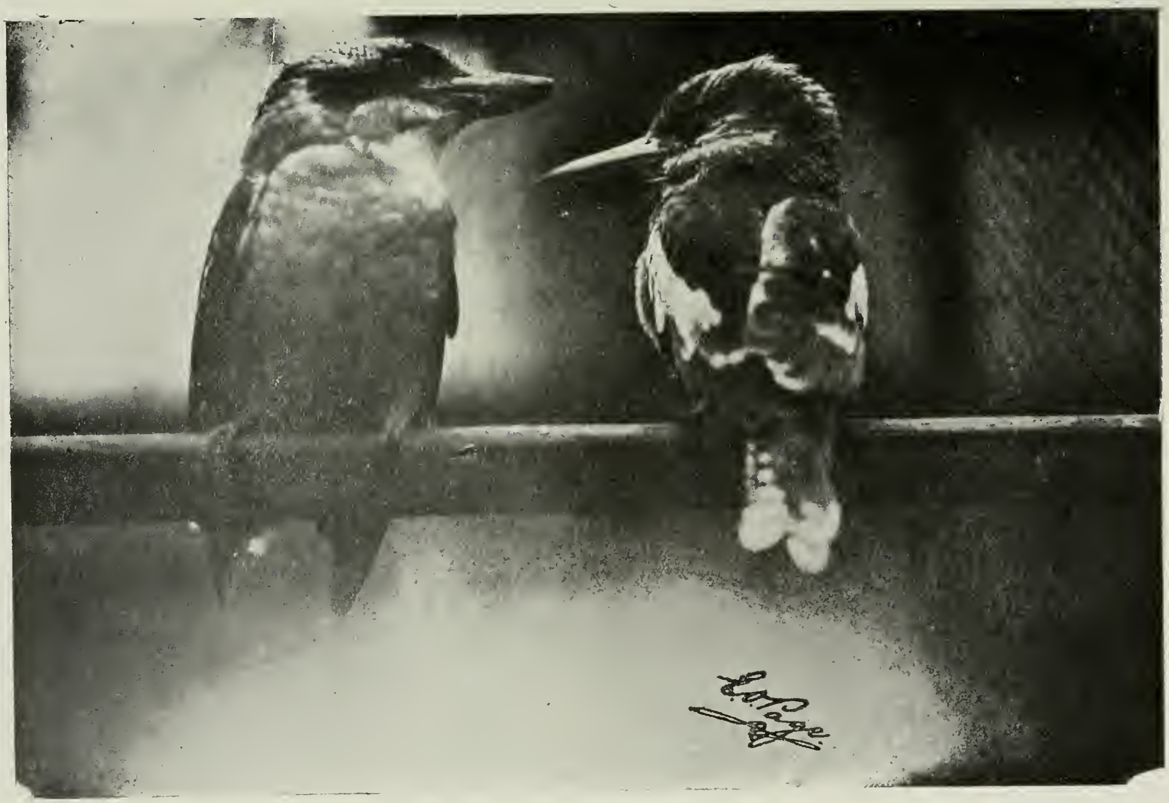
"A few days ago Mr. J. P. Rogers, who has been collecting birds "for me in this far-away part of Australia since 1908, and mammals for "the British Museum, came over at my request to consult with me, and "as he has a very remarkable record it occurred to me that the readers "of the *Mail*, which gives prominence to such matters ('Outdoor "Australia' is a very charming feature of the popular journal), might "like to hear something about him and his work. He talks very little. "Long journeys by himself in the silence of the bush have had their "effect upon him, He finds charm in solitude. For days, for weeks, "sometimes for months, he has wandered through the bush in quest of "rare species of birds, with no companion save a dog. He has added "sixty new birds to the catalogue of Australian varieties, and a great "many of them have been called after him. He is also the discoverer "of several new species of mammals. Thus Mr. Rogers has a unique "record."

AMONG WILD BLACKS.

"A little while ago Mr. Rogers made a journey right across Western "Australia to Tanami, a distance of some 500 miles, and got amongst "absolutely wild blacks, and very nearly perished from thirst. However, "that is a story by itself. If he can ever be induced to set down his "experiences on that adventurous journey I have no doubt that they will "prove of absorbing interest. What I know of some of them compels me "to say that there is a lot of silly sentiment uttered by people who have "had no actual experience themselves about good behaviour of uncivilised "blacks. They are savages in every sense of the word, or, at least, "that has been the experience of Mr. Rogers. The part of his work "that concerns me is that which has relation to birds."

WORLD-RECORD FLIGHTS.

"The most notable of the birds that he has discovered for us is "one of the wader family that breed in Siberia and winter in Australia. "Mr. Rogers is the only man who has ever shot one of the particular "species I allude to here. It is the broad-billed sandpiper. It had been "got in Java before, but never in this continent. The wader family arrive "in the nor'-west in countless numbers in October or November They "start on their 8000 miles flight back again when they get their full "plumage. That is in April. There are probably about twenty species of "them, and all mingle together on the breeding grounds ; but when about "to migrate the respective species collect into groups, and each flies off "separately. There is a 40ft. rise and fall at the spring tide, and that "provides a fine feeding ground. They live principally on shellfish, and "are in good condition when ready to leave. Sometimes a few stay "behind. That is because they have not got themselves into sufficiently "good condition to undertake this world-record journey."



Laughing and Buff-breasted Kingfishers,
Denizens of the Bush.

Photo by E. O. Page.

OTHER NEW BIRDS.

" Mr. Rogers has also added a new snipe called the pin-tailed to our " list of birds. The outer tail feathers are thin and narrow, and thus the " name. He has provided me with several skins of the rare white-quilled " pigeon, of which only one or two specimens had ever been secured before, " and is the only man who has ever collected the chestnut-bellied rail and " supplied the scientific world with notes concerning its life history. We " are indebted to Mr. Rogers for all that is known regarding this bird, " which is about the size of the waterhen common on this coast.

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET.

" Last year on the most southerly point of the Fitzroy River Mr. " Rogers had the good fortune to come across a flock of Princess Alexandra " parrakeets, and secured some. This is the most beautiful and delicately " coloured of all the parrakeet family, with very long and narrow tail " feathers. A fully-grown bird has a total length of about 17 inches, " of which the tail forms about 11 inches. They inhabit dry and sterile " country, such as is avoided as far as possible by man, and hence are " not often met with."

" The most common parrots in the nor'-west are the crimson-winged, " which is not so big as the king parrot, and the nor'-west form of what " is known in New South Wales as the Blue Mountain. Galahs are " common on the river frontages, and near water, but not in the dry " country. The wood swallow is to be found in all classes of country, " and finches are exceedingly numerous in some seasons, as well as " pigeons, doves and plovers. The natives have a name for the plover " that exactly describes its call—' weeloo.' "

GREAT-BILLED COCKATOO.

" The nor'-west is the habitat of the great-billed black cockatoo. " It is half as big again as the ordinary black cockatoo, with a tremendous " beak that has got clutching power. Woe betide the unfortunate person " whose finger or hand got caught in this cruel vyce. Small branches " are lopped off by this great-billed bird with the greatest ease. It feeds " on the native chestnut, and you can hear the sharp click made in breaking " the nuts 70 or 80 yards away."

SMALLEST OF THE TITS.

" Among other unique species in this part is the smallest bird in " Australia, and one of the smallest in the world. It is the tree tit. It " is not the size of a man's thumb. The body of this diminutive creature " without its tiny tail is hardly as large as the top joint of one's little finger. " It is smaller than most of the humming birds."

MYSTERIOUS MIGRATIONS.

" Another inhabitant of these parts is the black-tailed native hen, " about the size of a bantam, which, like the Princess Alexandra parrakeet, "has a most remarkable habit of never appearing in the same part of the "country during two successive years. In fact, when they do come "they make their appearance suddenly, and disappear as suddenly and "as mysteriously, but whence they come and whither they go no man "knoweth. One year one may perhaps see several hundreds in a day, "and for years afterwards only an odd one or two, or maybe, none at "all. Similar mysterious irruptions are made by flock pigeons. One "year they appear in particular localities in thousands; then perhaps for "years none will be seen there at all."

"Another of the birds of the nor-west that I must not omit to "mention is the jabiru, a big stork with an enormous bill a foot in "length, and as sharp as a needle. It is a fish eater, but Mr. Rogers "has seen one tackle a dead kangaroo."

HAVOC WROUGHT BY CATS.

"At the outset I mentioned that that worst of enemies of bird life— "the domestic cat gone wild—had appeared on the scene. This is very "sad, for it means the end of all ground-nesting birds and the decimation "of tree-nesting birds as well. Mr. Rogers tells me that the white-"bellied pigeons once numerous are going fast. The cats multiply "rapidly, and grow much bigger than the ordinary house cat. Mr. "Rogers saw them as far out as Tanami, and the probabilities are that "they are carried about by the blacks from settlements, and thus get "distributed over the country. Anyhow, this is very bad news for "bird-lovers, for it inevitably means the doom of many of our most "interesting birds. The fox is bad enough, but the cat is ten times "worse. I appeal to you, reader, never to let a cat escape if you should "happen across one in the bush and have the means of despatching it. "But they are notoriously hard to kill; and so, good-bye to the birds!"

THE BALANCE OF NATURE.

"A curious feature about the settled portions of the nor'-west, "according to Mr. Rogers, is that all the larger mammals are increasing, "and the small ones rapidly decreasing. There used, he tells me, to be "any number of opossums, squirrels, bandicoots, and rats on the Fitzroy "River when the whites first went there some 20 years ago. Now they have almost disappeared, as is always the fate of small animals in sheep "country. The agile wallaby is increasing. Twenty years ago they "were only found here and there. They had become such a pest in 1902 "that it was decided to give a bonus of fourpence per scalp and something "like a million scalps have been got to date. Mr. Rogers accounts for "the great increase in wallabies by the fact that the blacks are disappearing, "and now work, and are fed on the stations instead of hunting in the "bush, and that the wedge-tailed eagle and the dingo, the natural "enemies of the wallaby, have to a large extent been destroyed. When "the balance of Nature gets upset something is bound to happen. That "applies particularly to the bird world, and this experience illustrates "its application all round. Finally, let me impress on orchardists, "agriculturists, pastoralists, everybody—be careful when you wage war- "fare on any native bird. The balance of Nature is a very complicated "arrangement, and if you disturb it, then look out."

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A Bird and Rat Fight.

Reprinted from the *Yorkshire Post*, February 26th., with our thanks to the Editor.—Cutting per Miss M. L. Harbord.—Ed. B.N.

"Sir,—On Monday last, when taking the dog for a run in the fields "adjacent to my house, my daughters, Evelyn and Phyllis, captured, near "a barn, a bird which was fluttering and tumbling along the ground in "a very curious manner. On arriving home they at once brought it up "to my room (where I was confined with a bad cold) for my inspection. "The bird was a redwing, and a moments examination showed that it "was not the recent severity of weather that had incapacitated it, as I "had at first suspected, but disablement from a recent fight with a rat! "For the primaries of the right wing were securely lashed to the bird's "right shank and foot by tough strips and shreds of a rat's tail, a section "of the tail itself, about one and a half inches, hanging loose. Evidently "a Homeric combat must have taken place, and, for the moment at all "events, left the bird victorious, but so completely disabled, that only by "the exercise of great care and patience, and the aid of a pair of fine "scissors, was I able gradually to remove the entanglements. The "tips of the primaries were so tightly bound to the bird's toes, that it was "impossible otherwise to free them. After straightening out the feathers, "and warming and drying the legs and toes, which were in a semi- "paralysed state, the victim flew away into a holly tree, little the worse "for its gruesome adventure."

"To round the story off, I suppose I ought to say that the bird "licked my hand in gratitude, or whatever equivalent from a bird's point "of view it was morally capable of; but, on the contrary, it pecked "vigorously at my finger just before I turned it loose to take up in due "time, I trust, its return journey to the Northern breeding grounds."

Yours, etc.—T.C.J.

Willington, near Derby, February 21, 1919.

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Correspondence.

SMALL BIRDS' STRUGGLES,—TOO MANY BIRDS OF PREY.

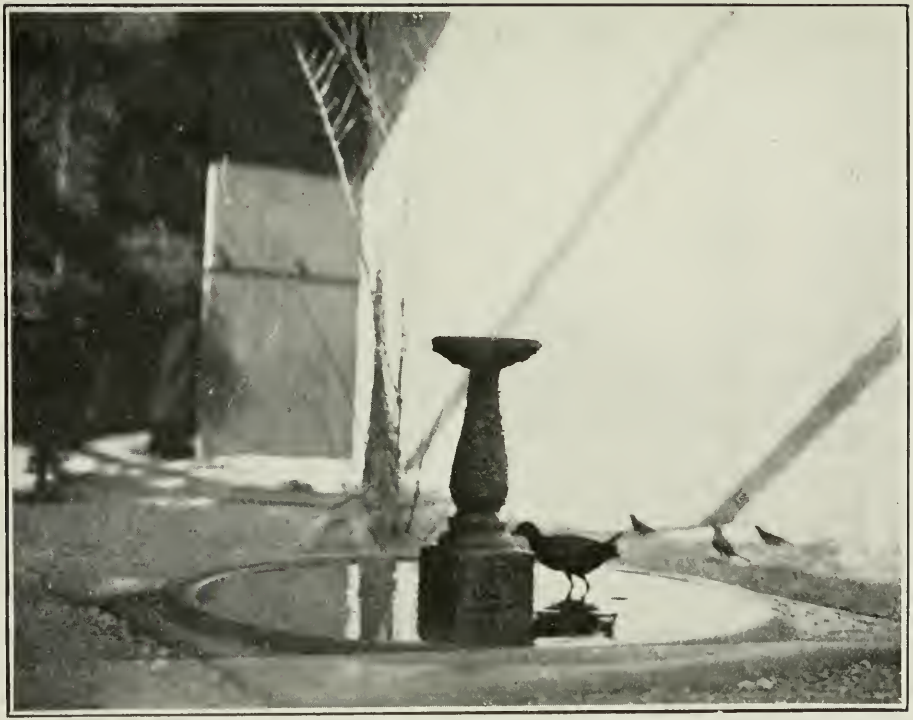
SIR :—Apropos of the letter on birds of prey in last number of " B.N." I do not think you can form a fair estimate of the destructiveness of a particular species of hawk or owl to bird life except you examine the contents of its stomach (or ejected pellets) throughout the year. Examination of owl pellets is almost invariably made during the breeding season, summer, and not in the winter as well. The Brown Owl in summer feeds mainly on mice and beetles, but I fancy an examination of its stomach in late winter would surprise its admirers—and shock them! If it is anything like as destructive to our native birds as it is to foreigners it must be a veritable scourge.

At my old home in Bedfordshire it was impossible to keep any parrakeet at liberty during the winter, smaller than a cock rosella—the brown owls had every one, and they must have killed dozens, as well as Tanagers, etc. Later a different set of owls took to killing full grown Chukor Partridges and several were trapped at the half-eaten bodies of their victims. Here it is the same story; I was more cautious about letting out small parrakeets, but alas! the brutes carried off a beautiful cock Barraband whom I thought too big for them to tackle, and later, another large parrakeet belonging to a weak-billed species. Barn owls are less destructive to bird life. Now and again they take a finch, but not often and though individuals will attack big birds, they are the exception and not the rule.

The Little Owl prefers mice to birds, and insects to either, as may be proved by anyone keeping it as a pet. When breeding it kills a good many young blackbirds, thrushes, and starlings, and will not infrequently take partridge and pheasant chicks, as well. Hence its bad reputation. It is quite untrue to say that it is destructive to finches and small insectivorous birds, the whole year round. I know a garden inhabited by a pair of Little Owls where robins, wrens, tits, nuthatches and finches simply swarm and I have never found their remains in the Little Owls' pellets. When hunting by day they are far too conspicuous and too slow to catch anything but a fledgling.

Warblington House,
Havant, Hants.
February 24th, 1919.

TAVISTOCK.



Virginian Rail at Fountain in Mr. Williamson's Californian Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

A Californian Aviary and its Inmates.

By T. F. M. WILLIAMSON.

My aviaries were built about two years ago, and, as I have kept a considerable variety of birds in them with a considerable amount of success, perhaps a short description of them and their inmates may be of interest and use to some of our members, even if they are situated so far away from England.

I had better state here that the Southern Californian climate, genial though it be, is subject to very sudden drops in temperature, so that bird keeping has its drawbacks here as well as anywhere else, and foreign birds are just as difficult to acclimatise here as in Great Britain. I have kept birds in both countries and have come to the conclusion that, generally speaking, birds which will not winter out of doors successfully in England need not be expected to do so in California. Had I realised this fact sooner I would have saved myself many disappointments and some expense.

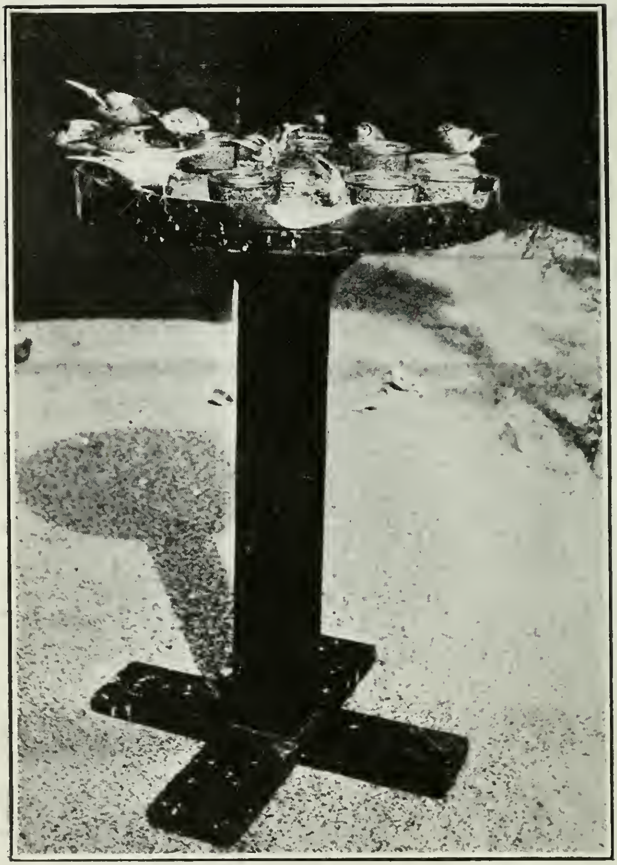
I wish to say, too, that any remarks I may make about the birds I have kept are merely my own observations, and are facts only so far as my own birds are concerned, and may not be appropriate to others of their own species at all. Birds have characters of their own as well as humans,, and these differ very much in individuals.

AVIARIES: My aviaries are of the plainest construction possible. Two of them are almost identical, except for the size of the wire mesh used and the planting of the flights; one is devoted to the smaller and the other to larger species. In both I have had to mix insectivorous and seed-eating species as I lacked room for more aviaries, but the ideal thing would undoubtedly be to keep the two kinds separate. I find, for one thing, that many of the seedeaters are too fond of the insectile mixture, and this indulged in to excess, as it very often is, makes them too fat and does not tend to prolong life.

The aviaries are built side by side, and consist of shelter-shed, covered flight, and flight. They are separated by a solid wood partition as regards the shelter-shed and by a three-quarter wood and one quarter half-inch mesh diagonal wire partition in the covered and open flights. The extreme length is 40 feet; shelter-shed 9 feet, covered flight 9 feet, and the remainder open flight. The width of each is 12 feet, and the height 10 feet. The whole structure is of wood and wire-netting. The wood used was Californian red wood for the uprights and Oregon pine for the rest. In the small bird aviary we used half-inch mesh diagonal wire throughout, and in the other 1 inch. The shelters have a sloping roof, with a two-feet drop from front to rear, and are each provided with a casement window, 2 feet by 10 inches, in the side, which is wired, and can be opened and hooked back when desired. The aviaries face south, and even in the warmest summer weather the sheds are sufficiently cool to be much appreciated by the birds. The whole outside and the flights are painted green, and the inside of the sheds and the woodwork of the partition cream-colour. The top of the flights is flat, not because I thought that best, but because I had to be as economical as possible in construction.

For water supply each aviary is provided with a small concrete fountain, having a basin for bathing purposes of about 2 feet diameter, sloping in depth from nothing to two inches.

In the flights I have planted here and there groups of privet, laurestinus, euonymus, budleia, and a few small pines A two-foot-wide walk, two inches deep in grit, runs right through the flights to the shelter-shed, and on the rest of the ground space I have sown alfalfa, Sudan grass, nasturtium, millet, dandedion, etc. In addition there are two large clumps of pampas grass in the small bird aviary. I should also mention that the entrance doors to both aviaries are at the opposite



Seed Table.

end of the flights from the sheds, and that these are double, besides having spring hinges so that the chance of birds escaping is small. Since these aviaries were built I have never had any trouble whatever with rats, mice, or snakes, nor have there been any signs of any of the birds being troubled with any kind of parasites.

Outside the flights, and close to the wire, are several well-grown orange and lemon trees, and, as numerous small insects hatch out in these at intervals every sunshiny day, that is nearly every day, and fly through the wire, I consider them a decided acquisition. It is a very pretty sight to see the insectivorous species darting about and pursuing the insects, and two Red-eared Bulbuls reared their young almost entirely by this means last summer.

The nest-boxes I use are those so often recommended by our Editor. They are easily made, easily cleaned ,and easily examined at any time. I hang them in the shed, the covered and open flights, and always try to allow at least two to each pair of birds. Whenever I introduce a new pair of birds I hang up two more nest-boxes, and I am sure in my own mind that this method does away with a great deal of quarrelling and fuss, besides insuring to every bird a warm shelter if he chooses to avail hinself of it. Perches are of course everywhere.

Until recently I fed all the birds on a seed table, using a different glass receptacle for each kind of seed, but, since Mr. Goytino very kindly gave me a seed hopper of his own, I have discarded the table and use hoppers entirely, as these save both seed and time. Canary, yellow, white, and red millet, thistle, rape, lettuce, hulled oats, and paddy rice are before the birds at all times, maw, sunflower, and hemp occasionally—the latter very occasionally. When the birds are getting well on in the moult I find that a little linseed, judiciously used, is not only very beneficial, but greatly improves the colour in many species, although it must, however, be used very carefully or it is too fattening. Green-food in the shape of lettuce is supplied every morning, also bunches of flowering grass, ripening oats, etc., whenever I can get them. Cuttlefish bone, finely broken charcoal, and a large piece of rock salt are always in the aviary. I buy my softbill mixture locally, and though it might be much improved upon I make it do by adding a few things myself. My birds seem to prefer an addition of grated carrot or sweet apple to anything else, and I have never been able to persuade them to appreciate potato in the mixture. To this mixture I add a small quantity of dried flies, which have been coming to us in very good quality of late, and a few Chinese weevils. I never saw these until I came out here ,and they have only been imported of recent years. They are a small weevil about half the size of a small grain of rice, of a light yellow colour, keep well, and are readily eaten by all the insectivorous birds once they discover what they are which for some reason or other takes longer than one would think. Mealworms are always on hand, and a few are thrown to the birds every day along with what other insects we can find, but, except in Spring, these are somewhat scarce, though snails and slugs for the Blackbirds and Thrushes can generally be picked up.

I had almost forgotten to mention perhaps the most important item of all—milksop. I fully endorse everything Mr. Page says of it, and it has certainly pulled through many a doubtful case for me. Probably it is needless for me to say that I am most particular to see that food receptacles are always kept clean, and that no food is allowed to sour in the aviary.

In California fruit of some sort is nearly always procurable, so I always have some before the birds. The favourites seem to be apple, pear, orange, grapes, canteloupe, blackberries cherries, and, perhaps most of all, green figs. I have never had a bird yet, and I include English Blackbirds and Thrushes in the list, that seemed to care for either raspberries or strawberries, and I have tried them often enough with both. Bananas are eaten only by some of the fruit-eating birds, and those that do eat them seem to prefer orange. The reason for this probably is that bananas are imported in a half ripe state, whereas our oranges are picked ripe from the tree. I have noticed that birds are, as a rule, shy of any new food that is placed before them, and that it is left practically untouched for a day or two is no guarantee that it will not be greedily eaten later on.

BIRDS: I shall, first of all, give a list followed by a short description of the birds in the small bird aviary, dealing with the inhabitants of the other aviary later.

2 Brazilian Cardinals *(Paroaria larvata)*.
2 Pekin Robins *(Liothrix luteus)*.
2 Green Singing-Finches *(Serinus icterus)*.
2 Bengalese (chocolate and white) *(Munia domestica)*.
2 Bengalese (fawn and white) *(Munia domestica)*.
6 Avadavats *(Sporaeginthus amandava)*.
2 Orange Bishops *(Pyromelana franciscana)*.
2 Napoleon Weavers *(P. afra)*.
2 Saffron Finches *(Sycalis flaveola)*.
2 Cuba Finches *(Phonipara canora)*.
2 Olive Finches *(P. lepida)*.
4 Zebra Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis)*.
4 Java Nonpareils *(Erythrura prasina)*.
2 Canaries *(Serinus canarius)*.
2 Sydney Waxbills *(Ægintha temporalis)*.
1 Blue-breasted Waxbill (♂) *(Estrilda angolensis)*.
2 Orange-cheeked Waxbills *(Sporaeginthus melpodus)*.
2 Zebra Waxbills *(S. subflavus)*.
2 Common Waxbills *(Estrilda cinerea)*.
2 St. Helena Waxbills *(E. astrilda)*.
2 Rainbow Buntings *(Cyanospiza leclancheri)*.
2 Indigo Buntings *(C. cyanea)*.
2 Nonpareil Buntings *(C. ciris)*.
2 Lazuli Buntings *(C. lazulina)*.
2 Black-headed Nuns *(Munia atricapilla)*.
2 White-headed Nuns *(M. maja)*.
2 Pectoral Finches *(M. pectoralis)*.
2 Madagascar Weavers (♂) *(Foudia madagascariensis)*.
2 Red-billed Weavers *(Quelea quelea)*.
2 Cherry Finches *(Aidemosyne modesta)*.
2 Varied Buntings (♂) *(Cyanospiza versicolor)*.
6 Bicheno's Finches *(Stictospiza bichenovi)*.
1 Yellow-rumped Finch *(Munia flaviprymna)*.
2 Red-sided Tits *(Sittiparus sieboldi)*.
2 Silverbills *(Aidemosyne malabarica)*.
2 Diamond Sparrows *(Steganopleura guttata)*.
1 Black Seedeater *(Melopyrrha nigra)*.
2 Jacarini Finches (♂) *(Volatinia jacarini)*.
2 Red-headed Finches *(Amadina erythrocephala)*.
2 Shaft-tail Finches *(Peophila acuticauda)*.
2 Masked Grassfinches *(P. personata)*.
2 Red-headed Gouldian Finches *(P. gouldiae)*.
2 Black-headed Gouldian Finches *(P. gouldiae)*.

2	Rufous-tailed Grass Finches *(Bathilda ruficauda).*
2	Black Siskins *(Chrysomitris atrata).*
2	Red-eared Bulbuls *(Otocompsa jocasa).*
1	Paradise Whydah (♂) *(Steganura paradisea).*
1	Pin-tailed Whydah (♂) *(Vidua principalis).*
2	Crimson Finches *(Neochmia phaeton).*
2	Arkansas Goldfinches *(Astragalinus psaltria psaltria).*
2	White-bellied Plumed Ground Doves *(Lophophaps leucogaster).*
2	Diamond Doves *(Geopelia cuneata).*
2	English Goldfinches *(Carduelis elegans).*
2	,, Bullfinches *(Pyrrhula europaea).*
2	,, Greenfinches *(Ligurinus chloris).*
2	,, Siskins (♂) *(Chrysomitris spinus).*
2	,, Lesser Redpolls *(Acanthis rufescens).*
2	,, Chaffinches (♂) *(Fringilla coelebs).*
2	,, Grey Linnets *(Linota cannabina).*
1	,, Brambling (♂) *(Fringilla montifringilla).*
1	,, Robin (♂) *(Erithacus rubecula).*
*4	Luzon Quail *(Turnix whiteheadi).*
1	Virginia Rail *(Rallus virginianus).*

All the birds mentioned above are pairs, unless otherwise noted.

BRAZILIAN CARDINALS: These, though I am sure they are a true pair, have never attempted to breed. They are very well behaved, and I have never seen them molest any bird in the aviary.

PEKIN ROBINS: These built a nest in a privet bush last May and laid two eggs, which were found on the ground two days later. They have started nests several times since, but never finished one.

AVADAVATS: These have built several nests in the nest-boxes and have laid eggs, but have never succeeded in rearing any young.

There are apparently two kinds of these birds. One is what we know as the Avadavat and the other is almost as large again. Both are imported here in large numbers and are called Strawberry Finches by the dealers. I have both kinds, and can distinguish no difference except in the size. Perhaps someone can enlighten me on the subject.

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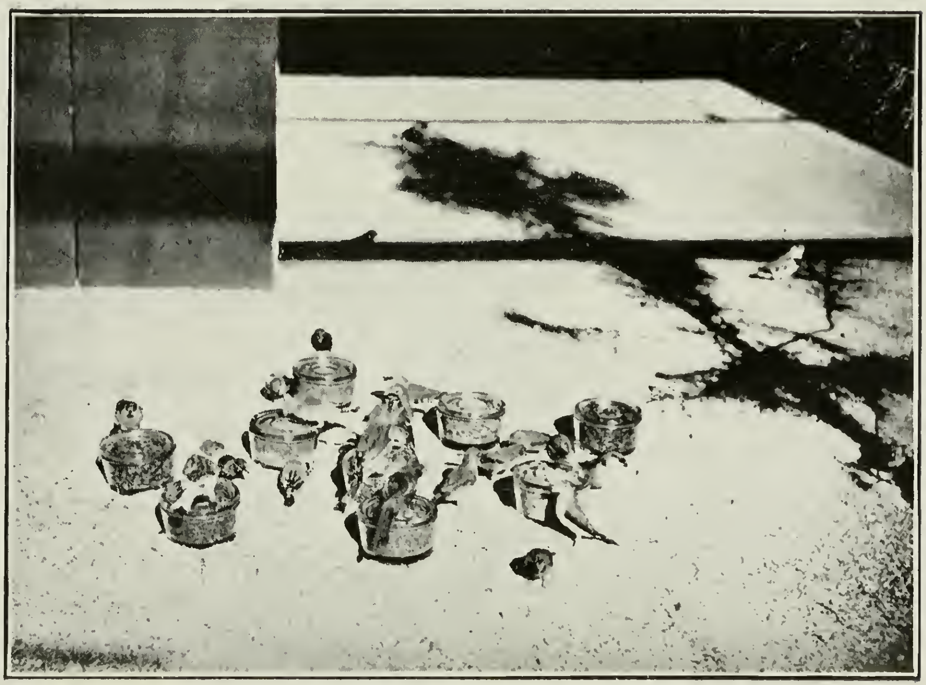
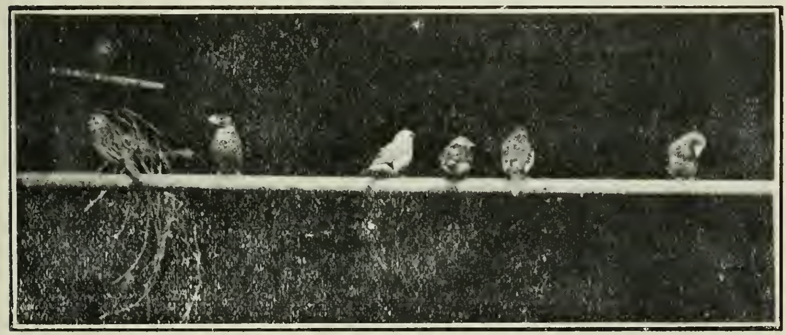
* Whitehead's Bustard-Quail.—Ed.



Mealtime in a Californian Aviary.

Cuba Finches: The female started a nest this spring and was quickly joined by the male. The nest was constructed entirely of dried grass, and lined with cotton wool. Four eggs, white in colour, minutely speckled with red at the larger end, were laid. I foolishly took them away from the birds and put them under a Zebra Finch hen, who died on the nest. All the eggs were fertile.

Java Nonpareils: I purchased two pairs of these birds last Spring from a dealer who had just got a shipment of about 100. Every bird was in spick and span condition, a most unusual thing for newly arrived birds of this species. Both males have been anxious to mate for some time, and are continually making love to the hens, but these have so far remained indifferent to their advances. When Java Nonpareils first arrive they seem to eat nothing but paddy rice. Mine have now forsaken that almost, if not quite, entirely for hulled oats.



Grassfinches.

Rainbow Buntings: These live almost wholly on paddy and fruit. They are very fond of mealworms too, and soon get quite tame and fearless. I have had many of these birds and find that it is useless to buy them unless they are in full colour, as they never seem to get it in captivity. Beautiful though they undoubtedly are, they are very shy and retiring in an aviary, only leaving the thickest part of the shrubbery to drink, bathe or eat.

VARIED BUNTINGS: I found two males among a lot of Nonpareils that had just come into a dealer's, but have never been able to procure a hen. When first turned into the aviary these birds fought with one another like two little game cocks but soon settled down, and are now quite well disposel. They are beautiful birds, their purplish plumage becoming iridescent in the sun.

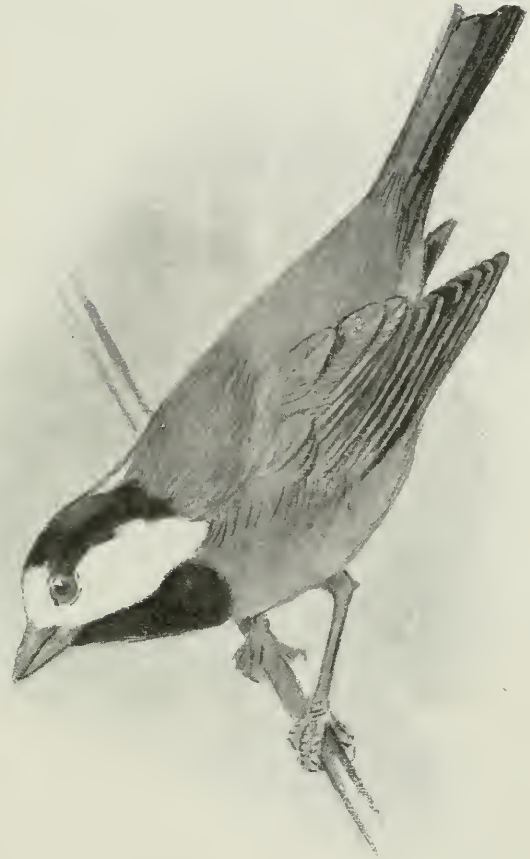
BICHENO'S FINCHES, Diamond Sparrows, and Gouldians all reared young successfully last Fall, as did Shaft-tail and Masked Finches. All are nice lively birds in an aviary with the exception of the Gouldians, who, I think, have only their bright colours to recommend them. To my mind a Zebra Finch is a much better aviary bird.

RED-SIDED TITS: These birds are called Japanese Tumblers by the dealers, and are very active and interesting in an aviary. I have seen one of them split the stone of a cherry, hammering it with its bill. Mine never tried to make a nest, but no other bird in the place could go into a nest-box without one or other of the tits immediately going to investigate. They were inveterate egg stealers, if they did nothing worse, and in spite of their entertaining ways I determined to get rid of them.

RED-EARED BULBULS: These built a nest and reared two lots of young last summer, but all the young died just after leaving the nest, for what reason I could never discover, for the weather was warm, and the old birds were plentifully supplied with live insects.

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH: This was the disturbing element of the whole collection; not that he ever hurt a bird himself, but as long as he was in colour he kept the small birds in the aviary in a constant state of panic, diving among them simply for the pleasure of frightening them, as far as I could judge. All his spare time was spent in this occupation, and eventually I had to get rid of him.

BLACK SISKINS: These were brought by a friend from Peru, and were the first I had ever seen. They are uniform black in colour with canary yellow primaries. The underside of the wings is of the same shade of yellow, so that either in



Drawn by Mrs. A. M. Cook F.Z.S.

Red-sided Tit.
(*Sittiparus sieboldi.*)

repose or in flight they are strikingly handsome birds. I do not know the sex of my pair, but a lady who got a single bird from the same friend told me that hers mated with a hen canary. Two young were reared but did not differ in any marked way from an ordinary canary. My birds feed entirely on ordinary rape seed, and though they eat sparingly of lettuce, I have never seen them touch any of the grass, oats, or other wild seeds.

CRIMSON FINCHES: About nine pairs were imported last summer, and I secured one pair, now, to the best of my belief, the only survivors of the shipment. The male looked a little out of sorts when he arrived, but completely recovered in a few days, and ever since the pair have been in the pink of condition, though no attempt has been made at nesting. After all the unpleasant tales I had read of the behaviour of these birds I was very diffident about turning them loose where they could do so much harm were they so inclined, but I was agreeably surprised to find them perfectly docile, and to this day neither of them have a single bad mark to their debit. In addition they are very beautiful birds and always look trim and neat.

LUZON QUAIL: I know no other name for these birds than this, which is what the dealer called them. They come from the Philippines, and are the smallest quail I ever saw, being about the size of a redwing. They soon become very tame, as do all birds that are fond of mealworms ,and have not the usual quail vice of dashing against the wire. Indeed mine never fly at all. They have never made any attempt at nesting, happy though they seem to be. Their principal food is yellow millet and as many mealworms as they can get.

VIRGINIAN RAIL: I consider this a great ornament to the aviary, as he is always in the foreground, generally round the fountain. Though not brightly coloured he is a very handsome bird, about the size of a waterhen with a similar habit of flirting his tail. His general colour is olive brown. When I first got him he did not seem inclined to eat, but on throwing a few mealworms into the fountain basin I saw him eat them readily, since then he lives on the insectile mixture and mealworms.

BRITISH BIRDS: All do well out here. Neither the moult nor the heat of summer seem to trouble them much. True, none of mine have made any attempt at breeding, but I hope with a more careful pairing when I can get some more birds, to have success in this direction too.

Since stocking this aviary with the above list of birds I have not lost a single bird either directly or indirectly through fighting, nor have any sustained injuries. Of course small quarrels occur now and then, but these are never serious, and all I can say is that if all human families lived together as sociably as my bird family does, the world would be a much happier place.

To be continued.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 63).

CACATUIDAE.

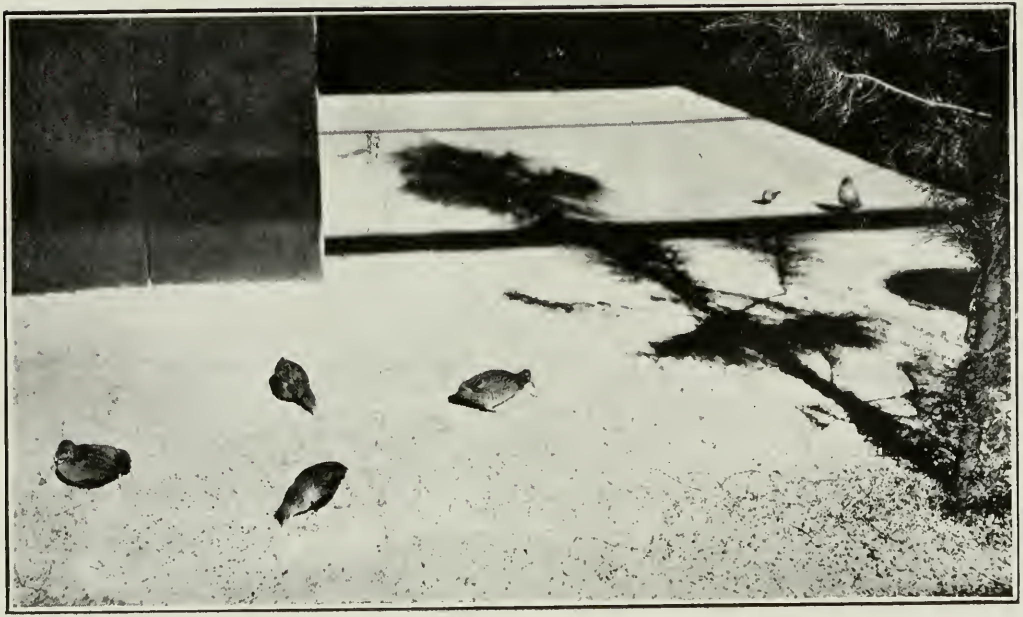
272.—GREATER SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO. *Cacatua galerita.*
Whitely. 1915., in partial liberty. See B.N., 1916, 102.
Abroad. 1st Dulitz †Russ. "in Berlin in 1883" †A.G.B. ii. 142.
HYBRIDS.
× Greater Sulphur-crested (Roseate Cockatoo).

◆

273.—LEADBEATER'S COCKATOO. *C. leadbeateri.* **W.T.P.**
Johnstone, 1901. A. S. Medal. A.M. vii. 191.
Zoo, 1906, 1907.

◆

274.—BARE-EYED COCKATOO. *C. gymnopis.*
Zoo, 1907.



Luzon Quail.

275.—ROSEATE COCKATOO. *C. roseicapilla.*
Hybrids.

ROSEATE COCKATOO × GREATER SULPHUR-CRESTED C.
W.T.P.

◆

276.—COCKATIEL. *Calopsittacus novae—hollandiae.* **W.T.P.**
Commonly bred.
Abroad. 1st Leuckfeld †Russ.

◆

PSITTACIDAE.

277.—BLUE & YELLOW MACAW. *Ara ararauna.*
Abroad. Lamouroux in France in 1818. /A.G.B. ii. 152.

◆

278.—RED & BLUE MACAW. *A. macao.*
Hybrids.

RED & BLUE MACAW × MILITARY MACAW. W.T.P. C.
Abroad. 4 hybrid Macaws in the Zoo, 1901. *A. macao* and *A. militaris.* bred at Milan. See P.Z.S., 1901, p. 2.

◆

279.—MILITARY MACAW. *A. militaris.*
Hybrids.
See above.

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280.—ILLIGER'S MACAW. *A. maracana.*
Abroad. 1st Frenzel †Russ. But Butler quotes Russ to the effect that "a pair belonging to Dr. Frenzel bred one young one, which however only survived a few days." A.G.B. ii. 154.

◆

281.—YELLOW CONURE. *Conurus solstitialis.*
Abroad. 1st Cerville. †Russ. In Rouen in 1883 †A.G.B. ii. 156.

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282.—YELLOW-HEADED CONURE. *C. jendaya.* **W.T.P.**
A successful breeding record in *Notes on Cagebirds*, ii. 173. †A.G.B. ii. 157.

HYBRIDS.

YELLOW-HEADED CONURE × BROWN-THROATED CONURE. W.T.P.

" " " × GOLDEN-CROWNED CONURE. W.T.P.

283.—BLACK-HEADED CONURE. *C. nanday.* **W.T.P.**.
At least once in England. teste Seth Smith, quoted by Butler. (A.G.B. ii. 157).

Recently by Brook, 1916. See A.M. 1917. 28.
Abroad. 1st Cornely. †Russ.

284.—GREEN CONURE. *C. leucophthalmus.*
Abroad. 1st Gabriac, teste Lenz. †Russ.

285.—CACTUS CONURE. *C. cactorum.*
Lovell Keays, 1914. See B.N. 1915 Jan. inset, p. 17, and A.M. 1915, 41.

286.—BROWN-THROATED CONURE. *C. aeruginosus.* **W.T.P.**
1st. Williams, 1908. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s., vi. 302.
HYBRIDS.
× Brown-throated (Yellow-headed Conure).

287.—BROWN-EARED CONURE. *C. ocularis.*
Shore Baily, 1915. See B.N., 1915, 265, 306.

288.—GOLDEN-CROWNED CONURE. *C. aureus.* **W.T.P. C.**
Abroad. 1st Wenzel †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
× Golden-crowned (Yellow-headed Conure).

289.—CAROLINA CONURE. *Conuropsis carolinensis.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Russ †Russ. "has been bred freely in Germany," †A.G.B. ii. 161.

290.—SLIGHT-BILLED PARRAKEET. *Henicognathus leptorhynchus.*
Abroad. Blaauw in Holland, 1913. See A.M. (3). v. 24.
He reports another success in 1916, see A.M., 1917, 66.

291.—WHITE-EARED CONURE. *Pyrrhura leucotis.* **W.T.P.**
Brook, 1906. A. S. Medal. A. M. n.s., v. 59.
Was bred in London in 1885, †A.G.B.
Abroad. Butler quotes Russ to the effect that this Conure was bred in 1889 in Vienna by Prince Frederick of Saxe-Gotha. (A.G.B. ii. 163).

292.—QUAKER PARRAKEET. *Myopsittacus monachus.* **W.T.P.**
" Dr. Greene in *Parrots in Captivity* records the successful rearing of two broods." †Seth Smith.
Zoo, 1905, 1906.
" easily bred " †Russ.

[293.—LINEOLATED PARRAKEET. *Bolborhynchus lineolatus.*
One young one bred by Miss Baker in 1912, but it was drowned when six weeks old. (B.N. 1913, 309).**]**

294.—PASSERINE PARRAKEET. § *Psittacula passerina.* **W.T.P.**
Cresswell, 1895. The young lived 3 months. See A.M. ii. 144. A recent success, Lovell Keays, 1914. See B.N. 1914, 143.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

295.—ALL-GREEN PARRAKEET. *Brotogerys tirica.* **W.T.P.**
Lovell Keays, 1914. See B.N. 1915, Jan. inset, p. 17.
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Hintz, 1882, †Russ.

296.—TOVI PARRAKEET. *B. jugularis.*
Abroad. W.T.P. C. 1st Greiner and Schmaltz. †Russ.
" Not infrequently . . . bred by German aviculturists," †A.G.B., ii. 169.

297.—BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON. *Amazona aestiva.*
Hybrids.
See the next.

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§ or " Blue-winged Lovebird."

298.—WHITE-FRONTED AMAZON. *A. leucocephala.*
HYBRIDS.

WHITE-FRONTED AMAZON × BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON.
Abroad. W.T.P. C.
At Karlsruhe in 1885. †A.G.B. ii. 181.

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[299.—BAHAMA AMAZON. *A. bahamensis.*
One hatched with Bonhote in 1909, but it died. †A.G.B. ii. 181.]

300.—GREY PARROT. *Psittacus erythacus.*
First bred at Riccall in 1843. (Zoologist, vol. ii. 1844).
For this interesting record (? the only one in the U.K.), see A.M. 1917, 55.
Abroad. Successfully bred by Herr Fritz Lotze in 1900. †A.G.B. ii. 192 and earlier, I think, by Mrs. Reid in Madeira. E.H.
Rowley in his Ornithogical Miscellany (i. 165), writes: "Buffon says that a pair in confinement bred and hatched their young for a series of five or six years. Later observation has not confirmed this remarkable circumstance."

To be continued.

◇◆◆◇

The Terror by Night.

BY B. THEO. STEWART.

It was a very old house dating back to the 14th century. Inside there were secret hiding places built into the wall; a room in one of the chimneys, and a secret passage or dungeon, as the villagers called it, right underneath the pleasant sunny sitting room, and visitors marvelled when, on opening an innocent-looking cupboard, a yawning cavern, approached by unsafe steps, confronted them. The old house was haunted, needless to say, but whether the "vibrations" everywhere were of a soothing or disturbing nature troubled us not one whit.

And in that sunny sitting room, in a large closely wired cage, dwelt some happy little birds—Bengali, Nuns, Spice Birds and tiny Waxbills. They sang and they danced, a joy to themselves, and dear to the tender heart of their owner.

A wonderful talking Red-breasted Cockatoo in his gilded cage adorned one window, and in the other a malignant-eyed Conure watched the world through his prison bars.

But the little birds took life as it came, and found it good, until one fatal night when an evil presence made itself felt. An awful something that came and went, leaving behind it desolation and dread, and the manner of its visitation was in this way.

The night had passed as other nights; no sound had come from the birdroom to disturb any wakeful ears. The morning sun peeped in at the tiny casement windows; the Cockatoo swung in his swing; the Conure screamed a welcome. All seemed the same, and yet over all there hung a cloud of fear. Something had passed that way and we were on unholy ground!

We came to the happy home of the little birds who dwelt in harmony together, but the tiny sweet waxbills, the dear grave nuns, the merry Spice Birds—what had happened to them?

Here the Blight had fallen. One had disappeared without leaving a feather of destiny behind him. Another was dying where he lay; a third had given a leg to Moloch; another —but why continue? There was not a trace of the horrible thing that had caused this woe; not a wire displaced; not a mark on the sand. Rats? No rat could have gained entrance through that strong close-meshed wire; not a hole or a crevice through which he could have passed to his murderous work. No rat had done this evil deed.

Traps were set that night, baited by a cunning hand. Poison laid down—all in vain. One by one the birds disappeared, leaving no trace behind. Night after night we waited and watched, but on those occasions the horror that we called " it " never appeared.

Hour after hour I lay awake and " waited for a footstep and listened for a word," but beyond the low muttering voice of the Conure, who conversed at unholy times with the powers of darkness, I heard nothing. Was it the Conure I heard? Looking back I wonder! In despair we shut up there our champion rat catcher, a cat who feared nothing that ran in fur, and whose strength was as the strength of ten, and for the first time we slept in peace. In the morning down we went, with hope that flew beside. Again the sun poured in at the windows; again the cloud of fear; again the sense of mystery the spirit daunted. Down from the top of the big cage sprang the cat, yawning from her long night's vigil, and—*she had failed!* Against that unholy foe she could do nothing; it had been again. Look on that *empty cage!!*.

So it went on. A something that came and went, now here, now there, intangible and horrible; a blood-thirsty something that had no shape or sound.

One night I started from my uneasy sleep with every nerve on edge; every hair erect, the blood freezing in its flow. What was it I had heard? That most horrible of all sounds—a creature's death scream. Thin, shrill and awful it rang out on the night air as if it was loth to cease, and died away in a choking whistle, and all was as silent as before, only the leaves rustled in the breeze.

Another little feathered soul passed that dreadful night; "One little gasp, his universe had perished." The nameless horror had come upon him but this time the body of the victim was left behind. A tiny puncture only showed where the life blood had been drained dry.

The terror by night had slaked its thirst; had taken at long last the dearest and best. Nemesis was appeased and the dreadful shadow was lifted.

Principle of evil! Principle of evil! Bird or beast or reptile, in whatever shape it visited this earth, it had passed.

Sun of no man, wrapped in mystery, behind a veil blood red!

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Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 54).

PSEPHOTUS PARRAKEETS.

Parrakeets belonging to this sub-family of the *platycercine* group should be treated, in the main, like the larger broadtails; they do well on the same kind of food, and resemble them in disposition. Breeding pairs are quarrelsome and must always be kept separate, but unpaired cocks and hens will live together in harmony. *Psephotus* Parrakeets are even more intolerant of *very* close confinement than the Rosella and its allies, and to keep them in small cages for more than a few months is to be guilty of very reprehensible cruelty; at the same time they do not require a great amount of room, and will live happily in aviaries and flight cages of quite modest dimensions if kept supplied with baths, fresh branches, and green food.

The *Psephoti* are naturally double-brooded; the different species interbreed readily, and crosses have occasionally been produced with *Platycercus Parrakeets.* Young birds breed when 12 months old.

The sexes are totally unlike in plumage, the hens being very quietly coloured.

At liberty *Psephoti* stay well and nest freely, but they can only be left out in summer, as in winter they fall an easy prey to owls. The cock should always be released alone in the first instance, and his mate must be kept in full view all the time. A few days later the hen can be allowed to join him, and as long as they are fed and both remain alive, they will never leave their home. If, however, one should meet with an accident, the survivor will invariably stray within a few days, and it is absolutely necessary either to provide a fresh mate at once, or to catch up the single bird. *Psephotus* Parrakeets are absolutely innocuous in the matter of noise, their cries being musical and not loud enough to offend the most sensitive ear. As pets they are much more gentle and affectionate than *Platycerci.*

Red-rump Parrakeet *(Psephotus haematonotus).*

The commonest member of the family, and annually bred in some numbers in captivity. Young have occasionally been reared in large cages, but some wing exercise is absolutely indispensable if the birds are to be healthy and fertile. When properly acclimatized, Red-rumps can stand any amount of cold, but newly imported birds and those in rough plumage are very sensitive to low temperatures. Great care must be taken never to introduce the germ of septic fever into an aviary occupied by Redrumps. They contract the disease on the slightest provocation, and of course always die. In spite of the small size of their beaks, Redrumps are active and successful fighters, and are able to kill birds apparently much better armed. A pair of Redrumps in breeding condition usually master a pair of Rosellas, though the latter are nearly a third larger. Young cock Redrumps can be distinguished from hens from the time they leave the nest, but at first they have only a few red feathers on the back, and the green parts of their plumage are much tinged with brown.

Many-coloured Parrakeet *(Psephotus multicolor).*

Everything which has been said of the Red-rump applies equally to this species, but it is not quite so free a breeder in captivity. The female may be easily distinguished by her brownish upper plumage and red (not yellow) wing bar. Young birds can be sexed at an early age.

Like the Redrump the Many-colour is highly sensitive to septic fever infection, and is, moreover, prone to contract " bird plague " and other septicæmias on the very slightest provocation. The most thorough disinfection of the aviaries is usually of no avail, and anyone who loses a Many-colour from septicæmia had better give up the species so long as he remains in that place. Provided, however, the detestable microbes are absent, Many-colours are perfectly easy to keep for years.

Hooded Parrakeet *(Psephotus cucullatus).*

This lovely bird and its near ally, the true Golden-shouldered Parrakeet *(Psephotus chrysopterygius)* are not so hardy as the two species just mentioned. If an attempt be made to winter them out of doors, the aviary shelter should be provided with a door so that the birds can be shut in at night and during bad weather. Young birds should also be shut up at night during their first moult, even though this usually takes place in the summer.

When turned into a new aviary, Hooded Parrakeets may elect to roost clinging to the wire netting in the most draughty and exposed situations, and as a result may be picked up dead the following morning from inflammation of the lungs. To guard against this distressing habit it is advisable to shut them into their shelter for the first few days, providing a snug roosting place close under the roof. Special shelter may also be arranged in the outside flight. and be sure and make a point of seeing where the birds go to bed the first few nights, if you would avoid disaster.

With the exception of the Emu, the Hooded Parrakeet is the most unaccommodating of Australian birds in the matter of adjusting itself to our seasons. They *will* go to nest in October, and if you let them do so out-of-doors, nine out of ten hens will die egg-bound ;the tenth will probably die of pneumonia when she begins to roost outside the nest as her family get big, even if she survives, the family are likely to succumb to the November frosts and fogs. If, on the other hand, you take the bird into a heated room, they will receive a check after living in the fresh air and sunshine, and lay nothing but clear eggs or refuse to lay at all. The best plan is to be patient, hardening your heart, and removing the nest-boxes in autumn when the cock is beginning to feed his mate, and leaving them for the birds to use only between April 15th and September 1st. In the end, if you are lucky, you will get a nest in early May or late August. Young birds in first plumage can hardly be sexed with certainty, though the cocks are always a shade bluer on cheeks or breast. Adult plumage is assumed at the first moult without the previous appearance of any stray black, yellow or blue feathers comparable to the red feathers which begin to show on a young Pennant's back during his first winter.

Among a lot of newly imported young Hooded it is common to see some which, while apparently healthy or in good body feather, have defective primaries and cannot fly. Never buy such birds, for, while they may live a year or more, they will never do any good, and ultimately, in spite of every care, will lose every feather they possess; they are not feather pluckers, but are simply lacking in vitality like in-bred budgerigars with "French moult." Parrish's chemical food and cod-liver oil in the drinking water is the only remedy to try, and it is not likely to prove of much avail.

Hooded Parrakeets are fond of green oats and seeding grass, and will also eat the buds of hawthorn, etc., during the winter; they do not care much for fruit.

During the breeding season the cock becomes as spiteful as a Redrump, but, being a small bird, he is not able to master as many of his neighbours as his bigger cousin.

Hooded Parrakeets now and again fall victims to septicæmia, but they are nothing like so sensitive as Many-colours and chills are the only ailments they commonly suffer from. For successful breeding results a good-sized aviary is desirable of the same dimensions as I have recommended for large broadtails.

To be continued.

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Partridges and Quails of North America.

By J. P. Goytino.

All the Partridges and Quails indigenous to the United States of America can be classified in the following genera:

1 *Colinus* or Bob White Quail.
2 *Oreortyx* or Plumed Partridge.
3 *Lophortyx* or Helmet Quail.
4 *Callipepla* or Shell Quail.
5 *Cyrtonyx* or Harlequin Quail.

I.—*COLINUS.*

The Quail, most known all over the United States, is indubitably the Bob White—the name being onomatopœic of its call-note. It belongs to the genus *Colinus*, a word latinized from the French " *Colin* " of Buffon and other naturalists, and which is probably derived from the Mexican name of Colino. It comprises several species and sub-species, differing very little between them, differences which, in my opinion, are more climatological than constitutional or organical. All the *Colinus* are monogamous, and go in small flocks called " coveys " formed exclusively from the members of one family or " packs " if in large flocks. They are terrestrial, and nest on the ground, laying numerous white or speckled eggs. Chiefly granivorous, they also eat fruits, insects, buds, and are non-migratory.

The different species of *Colinus* are:

(1) The Virginian Bob White *(Colinus virginianus)*, which is the most known of the genus.

(2) The Florida Bob White *(Colinus virginianus-floridanus)* which is quite similar to the Virginian form, and resembles also a great deal the Cuban Quail *(Colinus cubanensis)*. The Florida Quail is found only in the Lower Mississipi Valley and Florida.

(3) The Texas Bob White *(Colinus virginianus texanus)* inhabits not only Texas, but goes north as far as Kansas and south into Mexico. It differs very little from the Virginian prototype.

II.—*OREORTYX.*

The *Oreortyx* or Plumed Partridge is the largest and handsomest of the Quail family in the U.S. His head is adorned with an arrowy crest of two slender keeled plumes, 3-4 inches long in ♂, shorter in ♀.

The Mountain Partridge *(Oreortyx pictus)* is certainly a beautiful Californian bird, living in the mountainous parts of the Pacific Coast region, going north as far as Washington, and even to the Vancouver Islands (British Columbia), where it has been lately introduced and thoroughly acclimatised. There is something of a Grouse in the shape of this Partridge; even its eggs are a miniature of the Ruffled Grouse, only smaller.

The San Pedro Mountain Quail *(Oreortyx pictus confinis)* differs only in colour from the *O. pictus*, and, being found exclusively in the San Pedro Mountains of Lower California, must be classed as a Mexican bird.

III.—*LOPHORTYX.*

The *Lophortyx* or Helmet Quail is a bird with an elegant crest recurved helmet-wise. There are several species in that genus differing, as in the *Colinus*, by the colour of the plumage only.

The California Valley Quail *(Lophortyx californica)* is known now all over the world, and has been introduced and intensively propagated on the large landed estates of England, France and Germany, as it is considered a splendid game bird. Though monogamous, it is also apt to be polygamous, as has been proven by the experiments conducted at the California State Game Farm at Hayward. The Superintendent, I am told, used to mate one male to five or six females with very good results. But in the open country I have always found the Valley Quail monogamous; captivity may probably thwart their natural proclivity, or may be the contact with civilization has obliterated, at least partially, their praiseworthy fidelity. In California, his native land, this Quail breeds quite early in March, laying, on the ground, 20 or 30 eggs. The incubation lasts 23 days, and the young develop very quickly, and are full grown at three months old.

To raise successfully Californian Valley Quails in captivity animal food is of prime necessity. The eggs are generally incubated by Bantam hens or Japanese Silkies, and the young chicks fed, for the first two or three weeks, on millet, canary seed, and dried weevils imported from China. I prefer them to ants' eggs, pretty hard to get here, and by all means to the gentles or maggots, as they are clean and odourless, except for a *sui generis* Chinese smell, and will not produce any ptomaine poisoning. Green grass is also relished by the young as well as by the older Quails, and is a necessity instead of a luxury. California Valley Quails born in March, April or May will breed the following spring, and when raised in captivity are exceedingly tame, though subject, however, to a gastro-intestinal disease, which is dreaded by all the breeders, as it exterminates entire flocks inside of a few days. There is no known preventive for this epidemic.

The Gambel Quail *(Lophortyx gambeli)*, also known as the Desert Quail or Arizona Quail, closely resembles in form the California Valley Quail, but differs a great deal in plumage, which is certainly prettier and brighter in the Gambel.

IV.—*CALLIPEPLA.*

The *Callipepla* or Shell Quail has the general characteristics of the *Lophortyx* with a short, full, soft crest, nothing comparable to the elegant helmet-plumes or pompons of the precedent genus.

The Scaled Quail *(Callipepla squamata)*, called also the Blue Quail, is found in Western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and south far into Mexico. It breeds from March to September, and is exclusively a desert quail, inhabiting the most arid, cactus-ridden regions, often far from water, sometimes keeping company with the Gambel Quail.

The Chestnut-bellied Scaled Quail *(Callipepla squamata castanogastris)* is also called the Brewster Quail. Concerning his scientific name our distinguished American ornithologist, Elliott Cones, says justly " a preferable form of the name of that Quail would be *castaneiventris* or *castaneiventer* as in the British Museum catalogue, 1893, p. 396. This sub-species of the Scaled Quail is found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and southward in the lowlands of north-eastern Mexico, as far as San Luis Potosi.

V.—*CYRTONYX.*

The *Cyrtonyx* or Harlequin Quail is so named on account of the plumage of the head of the male being curiously striped and the under parts ocellated.

The MONTEZUMA QUAIL *(Cyrtonyx montezuma)* is named after the Emperor of Mexico at the time of the Spanish conquest under Fernando Cortez, early in the 16th century. It is also called the Black Quail, and sometimes the Massena Quail, and also the Fool Quail on account of being so easily killed, that the hunters recognize its innocence by that uncomplimentary name, It's a bird of woodlands, inhabiting western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and southward far into the interior of Mexico. It is found quite often at an altitude of 9,000 feet, feeding on a certain bulbous root, nesting on the ground, and laying no more than a dozen of pure white eggs. Happily it does not pack in large coveys, otherwise it would have been exterminated long ago, considering its foolishness and the silly short-sightness of the pot-hunters; two fools pitted one against the other!

Book Notices and Reviews.

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS: This valuable work is published by Messrs. Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, London, W.C. 1., and E. Hartert, Annie C. Jackson, Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, C. Oldham, N. Ticehurst and the Editor are the authors responsible for stated sections. With 18 coloured plates and numerous text figures, in 18 monthly parts, 4s. net per part. Parts I. and II. now ready.

Part I. has been sent us for review, and we have no hesitation in describing it as a veritable *multum in parvo*, valuable alike to the field naturalist, country rambler, scientific ornithologist, and bird-keeper. In fact no student of British bird-life can afford to be without it. While being fully comprehensive (*exhaustive*) it is concise, and the information so tabulated as to be of easy reference.

Full up-to-date information is given under the following headings:

DESCRIPTION.—*Adult male and female—Winter and summer plumages—Nestling—Juvenile—First winter and summer—*

Measurements and structure—*Soft parts*—CHARACTERS AND ALLIED FORMS—HYBRIDS—FIELD-CHARACTERS—BREEDING-HABITS—FOOD—DISTRIBUTION: *England and Wales, Scotland*—MIGRATIONS—DISTRIBUTION: *Abroad.*

Part I. contains: Introductory Note—Glossary of Terms—Scale of millimetres and inches, with diagrams showing methods of measurement, and a fig. showing the topography of a bird.—Key to the Orders.—FAMILY *CORVIDÆ*—FAM *STURNIDÆ*—FAM. *ORIOLIDÆ*—FAM. *FRINGILLIDÆ* commenced. Also a beautiful coloured plate showing the juvenile plumages of L. Redpoll, Siskin, Hawfinch, Brit. Goldfinch, and Greenfinch. The better to indicate the valuable character of the work we reproduce the account of the Golden Oriole in full.

" *ORIOLUS ORIOLUS.*

15. *Oriolus oriolus oriolus* (L.)—THE GOLDEN ORIOLE.

CORACIAS ORIOLUS Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. x. i. p. (1758—Europe, Asia. Restricted typical locality: Sweden).

Oriolus galbula Linnaeus, Yarrell, I., p. 233, Saunders, p. 145.

DESCRIPTION.—*Adult male. Winter.*—Lores black; rest of body-plumage bright golden-yellow, generally with few (occasionally good many) feathers of mantle and scapulars and few under wing-coverts and upper tail-coverts slightly marked black; tail velvety black tinged yellow at base, central pair narrowly tipped yellow, rest with distal half or third yellow; primaries velvety-black, tipped yellowish-white, inner webs fringed grey and outer webs of 3rd to 5th fringed on distal half; secondaries velvety-black with broader yellowish-white tips; primary coverts velvety-black with broad pale yellow tips forming distinct yellow patch; greater, medium and lesser coverts velvety-black, innermost partially yellow. This plumage is acquired by complete moult in autumn. Summer.—No moult, and no noticeable change by abrasion.

Adult Female. Winter and Summer.—Crown, ear-coverts, sides of neck, mantle, scapulars, and back golden-green; rump and upper tail-coverts greenish-yellow; lores greyish-black; throat and upper breast ashy-grey, faintly streaked with dark brown; lower breast and belly yellowish-white, more boldy streaked; under tail-coverts, axillaries, and under wing-coverts bright yellow; tail as in male but browner, strongly tinged yellow and with smaller yellow tips; primaries and secondaries brown, edged and tipped with greyish-white, and inner secondaries tinged green; primary coverts black-brown, tipped pale yellow; greater and medium coverts brown, tinged green; lesser rather darker brown and more distinctly tipped green. N.B.—Occasionally females are yellow on under parts, lightly streaked brownish-green, and with crown and rump bright greenish-yellow.

Nestling.—(not examined).

Juvenile.—Much as adult female but feathers of crown mantle, back, and wing-coverts with pale yellow tips, under-parts with browner and less distinct streaks, under tail-coverts paler yellow.

First Winter and Summer. Male.—Upper parts as in adult female but rather more yellow; throat ashy-grey, tinged yellow; upper-breast yellowish-green, faintly streaked brown; lower-breast, belly, and flanks yellow, faintly streaked on flanks and sides brown; tail browner-black than in adult male and with rather smaller yellow tips; wings more like adult female but rather darker and with less green tinge, and wing-coverts with pale tips. The juvenile body-plumage is moulted in autumn but apparently not wing- and tail-feathers and wing-coverts. N.B.—Some males like adults but more greenish on upper-parts and with light greenish streaks on under-parts and less glossy black wings and tail may be second-winter birds They are like the very bright females noted above.

First Winter and Summer. Female.—Like adult female but upper-parts more olive—less golden-green; ear-coverts brownish; breast and belly less yellowish and more strongly streaked black-brown; wing-coverts distinctly tipped greenish-yellow.

Measurements and structure.—♂ wing 150-161 m.m., tail 77-85, tarsus 21-24, bill from feathers 22-26 (12 measured). ♀ wing 146-157. Primaries: 1st about double primary-coverts and about half (or less), 2nd, 3rd longest, 2nd 8-12 m.m. shorter, 4th 1-6 shorter, 5th 14-23 shorter; 3rd and 4th clearly emarginated outer webs. Longest secondary equals 10th primary. Tail almost square, slightly rounded laterally. Bill wide at base, tapering to point; slightly hooked. A few rictal bristles.

Soft-parts.—Bill dark pink (young ♀ browner); legs and feet dark slate; iris dark crimson (young ♀ dark brown).

Characters and allied forms.—In *O. o. kundoo* (India. Turkestan) male has patch of black behind eyes, primary-coverts and tail feathers (except central pair) mostly yellow with only bases black; female has more yellow under parts, more yellow on primary-coverts and tail, and greener secondaries and wing-coverts.

Field-characters.—Frequently uttered, loud and very melodious whistle ("wiel-a-wo") of male generally first indication of presence; curious harsh growling noises to be heard at close quarters. Makes short flight, when disturbed, to nearest tree, in which it disappears. Male very skulking, and practically invisible in tree just coming into leaf, but during flight bold black and golden-yellow plumage very conspicuous. Females and young males look greenish and are hard to see. (F.C.R.J.).

Breeding-habits.— Breeds by preference in parks, old wooded gardens and small plantations, building its remarkable nest in angle of two horizontal boughs at various heights from the ground. *Nest.*—Slung like a hammock, but attached firmly to boughs on both sides, built of grass stalks, sedges, strips of bark, wool, etc., lined flowery grass-heads and frequently containing bits of paper woven into it. *Eggs.*—4, sometimes 5, very rarely six; white or creamy ground-colour, with a few purplish-black spots, each with slight penumbra, and mostly near big end. Average of 100 eggs, 30.8 x 21.3 m.m. *Breeding Season.*—Generally late May or early June, rarely as early as mid-May, but earlier in Spain. *Incubation.*—Lasts about 14-15 days; male relieves female in middle of day (Naumann). One brood.

Food.—Insects in spring, but much fruit in autumn. *Coleoptera* (especially cockchafers) and *larvae* of *lepidoptera*, *diptera*, *orthoptera* (grasshoppers), and *hemiptera;* also spiders and small mollusca, cherries and mulberries, also currants, grapes and figs.

Distribution.—*England and Wales.*—Spring-visitor (arriving end of April to mid-May). Annual in very small numbers to south-east and south-west England; irregular elsewhere, but has occurred most countries. Has nested Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Northants, Herts, Surrey, Devon, and especially Kent, while other records are not authenticated. *Scotland.*—A few occurrences, mostly in south; one Shetlands one Orkneys, and noted Fair Isle spring and Autumn 1908, and May 1909, and spring 1913. *Ireland.*—Rare casual spring and summer-visitor ,most frequent Kerry, Cork, Waterford, and Down.

Distribution.—*Abroad.*—Europe generally, except Norway, Sweden north of 63 degrees, and Russia north of 60 degrees, to Mediterranean, and in north-west Africa; eastward to Tian-Shan and Altai, and replaced by allied form in India and Turkestan. In winter in tropical and southern Africa and Madagascar."

We commend this work to our readers as being the last word on British Birds, and it should *(must)* have a place on the book-shelves of every student, lover, and keeper of our English avifauna.

Correspondence.

EARLY APPEARANCE OF WOOD WARBLER.

Sir,—It may be of interest to report that I saw a Wood Warbler on March 13th, when at Napsbury, near St. Albans. Surely this is unusually early?

19, Westbourne Terrace, W. 2. (DR.) N. S. LUCAS.
March 18th, 1919.

CAN WE DEVELOP THE SOCIAL SIDE OF AVICULTURE? ETC.

Sir,—I have often wondered if there are any among our members unable to get away for a holiday because of their birds—I have been in this position—if so, I would be willing to take charge of anyone's aviary if they would pay travelling expenses and supply board and lodging, during June, July or August, and would carefully carry out any directions given—I may say I have a fair knowledge of birds.

Cannot our Club be made more social? Or are the members too apathetic? I find many people would like to go away for a holiday, but do not know where to go, especially if one is by oneself. It would be nice if club members would be willing to find a decent lodging for anyone (I do not mean in their own homes), and be willing to show their aviaries and exchange ideas, etc.; it would make a pleasant holiday and probably increase enthusiasm.

A LADY MEMBER.

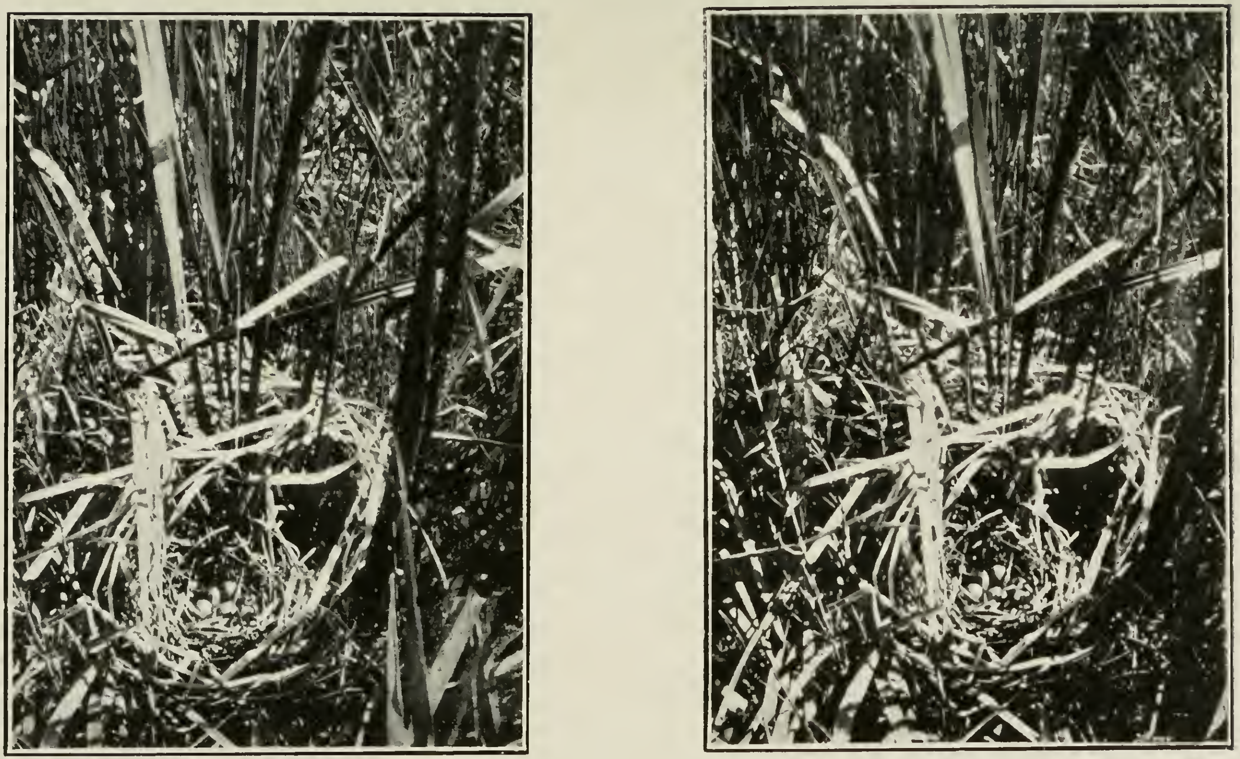
[Our correspondence section is open for an expression of opinion on this, or any other avicultural topic.—Ed.]

Errata.

Page 45, line 12, for "as admirably," read *was admirably.*

Page 47, line 12, for "Excalfactoria," read *Lophortyx.*

Page 47, line 27, for "contain the nest," read *contained the nest.*



Photos Rev. J. M. Paterson.

Nests and Eggs of Indian Great Reed Warbler.
(Acrocephalus stentoreus).

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

By THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK.

(Continued from page 88).

SOME RELATIVES OF THE BROADTAIL FAMILY OF PARRAKEETS.

More or less closely allied to the typical family of *Platycerci* are a number of Parrakeets, most of them rare in captivity, and possessing certain peculiarities of their own. I will only mention those of which I have had practical experience.

BLUE-BONNET *(Northiella haematogaster).*

Two races of this bird exist which were formerly considered separate species. Typical specimens of the northern red-vented form, which is by far the handsomer, have a large maroon patch on the wings, and red feathers under the tail.

The sexes are much alike, but the female has a smaller red patch on the belly. Bluebonnets should be fed and treated like the typical broadtails; they are extremely active birds, and pine away if kept in small cages. They are not free breeders and success is only likely to be attained in a good sized aviary. They are extremely hardy as regards cold, and adults in good plumage can often be turned out of doors in winter when newly imported—treatment which is very rarely advisable with Parrakeets. On the other hand no bird, not even the Many-colour, is more sensitive to septic fever and bird plague, and newly imported Bluebonnets should be carefully quarantined for 8 weeks, even if they seem in perfect health on arrival.

Bluebonnets are exceedingly vicious with all other birds, and only single hens should be trusted in mixed company of any kind. The species is an unsatisfactory one at liberty, although it seems able to protect itself from owls in spite of its rather small size. The majority are inveterate strayers, but now and again you *may* chance on a pair who scarcely go 500 yards from their home. A new mate turned out with an established bird frequently takes it away at once, which seldom or never happens in the case of a Pennant or Rosella. I should advise anyone experimenting with Bluebonnets at liberty to keep the pair a long time in an aviary to begin with and then to release the cock, when very hungry, near his mate and food, and, when he is thoroughly used to the place, to allow the hen to join him when she, too, is pretty sharp set

RED-CAPPED OR PILEATED PARRAKEET *(Porphyrocephalus spurius).*

The two outstanding characateristics of this bird are its excessive nervousness and its liability to chills. It is, however, possible, with care, to harden it off so that it can be safely wintered out of doors, but woe betide the aviculturist who attempts to keep it in a slightly warmed birdroom or in an enclosure which is the least bit draughty.

In spite of its extreme timidity the Red-capped Parrakeet is quite ready to breed in an aviary; it requires plenty of flying exercise, as, if caged during the winter, the eggs are sure to prove clear.

The seed mixture should be the same as that given to ordinary Broadtails, and plenty of fruit—apples, and grapes—as well as green-food—should be supplied. Young birds have a green cap, and the whole plumage much duller than that of the adult. Hens vary a good deal in colour. Some remain almost as dingy as immature birds all their lives; others are brighter, but none have the clear red cap of the old male, a few green feathers being always mingled with the red.

Red-capped Parrakeets are rather restless and meddlesome when kept with other birds, but not particularly murderous, except during the breeding season; they are usually mastered by Rosellas, etc. Judging from very limited experience I should say they would behave well at liberty.

NEW ZEALAND RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET *(Cyanorhamphus novae-Zaalendiae).*

In the days when this bird was freely imported it bore the reputation of being hardy, amiable and prolific. Mine did well on the ordinary diet of seed and green-food, and were less intolerant of cage life than the true broadtails. At one time I had two cocks and a hen. One cock quarelled so badly with the latter that I had to remove him; the other killed her in a large aviary and nearly murdered some other Parrakeets as well—so I cannot say I have found the species either amiable *or* prolific!

UVÆAN PARRAKEET *(Nymphica uvæensis).*

This bird shares with its relative the, Horned Parrakeet (*N. cornuta*) ,the reputation of being one of the most difficult of all the parrot family to keep alive in captivity.

I obtained five in good condition some time ago; they did well as long as they were kept in cages in a warm birdroom, but as soon as I turned them into a nice aviary in lovely summer weather they died one after the other after a few days' illness. The post mortem revealed only extreme anæmia and brittleness of the bones. I had been told that the secret of success with *Nymphica* was no hemp and plenty of fresh air. Mine died in the fresh air, and throve in the stuffy room, and some had had no hemp before they fell ill. Later I obtained another Uvæan which had come over in the same lot and was in bad plumage on arrival. It had been kept in a cage and fed on the usual seed mixture (including hemp), plus maize, peanuts, fruit and green-food. It is still alive and well, though it has never been out of doors. It is quite a tame bird, not unpleasantly noisy, nor as vicious as a tame broadtail. A male Uvæan has also lived for many years in a cage at the Zoo and survived the meagre and monotonous diet to which misplaced economy condemned the animals long before the days of war and rations.

The sexes are much alike; the female, presumably, has a smaller head and beak.

BOURKE'S PARRAKEET *(Neopsephotus bourkei).*

This lovely little bird, now approaching extinction, closely resembles the Grass Parrakeets in its habits, and should be treated in much the same way. The diet should consist of millet, spray millet, canary, hemp, and grass seed. Chickweed and other green food may be offered, but the Bourke is usually well content with dry seed alone. The sexes are very difficult to distinguish; some cocks have a blue frontal band, but many have none and are only to be told from hens by being a shade pinker and more richly coloured.

Bourkes will breed freely in a good-sized aviary, but not in a small one; breeding pairs are best kept separate when nesting, as they are apt to fight and pluck each other's young. and I have even known one cock to kill another. The nest barrels should only be put up in the summer months, when two broods may be reared in succession; winter breeding is risky and not to be recommended. Bourke's possess one great drawback · they have an inveterate habit, particularly when young, of killing themselves by flying against wire netting; consequently the roof and sides of their flight must be protected by an inner lining of string netting, or, if other birds are kept with them, by fine twiggy branches instead. They are somewhat sensitive to septic fever in fection, and also to necrosis, but with proper care and cleanliness are not difficult to keep in good health.

During the winter Bourkes should be kept shut up at night and on cold days, but they do not need artificial heat as a rule.

They do not agree very well with other small Parrakeets, but are generally safe with finches. Their cry is a gentle. musical twitter.

GRASS PARRAKEETS.

A family of beautiful little birds, all of which are threatened with extinction, two species having apparently already vanished. They should be fed on millet, canary, grass seed and hemp, with plenty of green-food and apple if they will eat it They should be treated in most respects like Bourke's Parrakeet, and they have the same unlucky propensity for killing themselves against wire. They are highly sensitive to septic fever but seldom suffer from other ailments—except chills.

BLUE-WINGED GRASS PARRAKEET *(Neonanodes chrysostomus)*

The sexes are rather difficult to distinguish, but the cock has a large and brighter frontal band. Blue-wings will nest in a large cage, but the exercise and sunshine of an outdoor aviary (of the size recommended for Rosellas, etc., or a little smaller), are necessary if young are to be hatched and reared. Young birds are best taken indoors for their first winter, and old ones should be shut up at night and in bad weather. Blue-wings are usually safe with finches, as, indeed, are all the Grass Parrakeets, and I am inclined to think they would not damage growing shrubs.

ROCK GRASS PARRAKEETS *(Neonanodes petrophilus).*

Should be fed and treated like the preceding species. It requires artificial heat in winter.

ELEGANT GRASS PARRAKEET *(Neonanodes elegans).*

Should be fed and treated like the Bluewing. The sexual difference is similar.

To be continued.

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Wagtails at Roost (30th March, 1919).

BY HUGH WHISTLER, I.P., F.Z.S., ETC.

Close to the railway bridge of Chund Barwana, near Jhang over the Chenab river in the western Punjab, there is a small pool situated within the railway wires. This pool is about 30 yards long, and 10 yards broad, and one end is much choked with tall bullrushes which also extend as a narrow fringe along each side. The pool is situated in the broken ground caused by the excavation of the railway embankment. Being rather deep, it never dries up, even in the severest drought.

The course of my winter touring recently brought me to Chund, so one evening I wandered down to the pool to see what might be found there of interest. Previous experience had shown me that the reeds of the pool were a favourite roosting place for Water Pipits *(Anthus blakistoni)* and Reed Buntings *(Emberiza schoeniclus),* and I was anxious to see whether any of these birds were still about. Also I thought it extremely probable that Wagtails might come here to roost. as the previous days of my tour had shown me that large numbers of Wagtails were about on migration.

On first arrival at the pool things did not look very propitious; a careful beating of the reeds produced nothing more interesting than a casual Wren-warbler *(Prinia lepida)*, and the single Kingfisher *(Halcyon smyrnensis)*, and the little Green Bee-eaters *(Merops viridis)*, which were working for their living round the margins, might have been seen anywhere else. Several pairs of Pied Bush-Chats *(Pratincola caprata)*, a number of Red-breasted Flycatchers *(Muscicapa parva)* on migration, a small party or two of Red Avadavats *(Sporaeginthus amandava)*, and a single Blue-throat *(Luscinia suecica)* completed the avifauna of the broken ground. However, diligent search revealed the presence of two or three individuals of an interesting bird in a row of Shisham trees that bordered the line. This was that little known species of Willow Wren *(Phylloscopus indicus)* which passes through in small numbers on the spring migration.

As the sun began to set I observed a few Wagtails flying ower head, and proceeding to investigate where some had settled found with them a flock of Tree-Pipits *(Anthus trivialis)*, also birds of the spring passage. Wagtails now commenced to arrive in small parties which circled round over the neighbourhood of the pool, hesitating and calling, now flying high, now lowering as if to settle, but changing their minds and rising again to their former height. As the dusk fell this continued until there was a cloud of several hundred Wagtails circling over head and crossing in every direction, while a constant stream of individuals kept dropping headlong from the cloud and settling in the rushes; occasional panics seemed to seize upon the birds already settled, as batches of them would rise hastily from the cover and join the ever circling cloud. The soft fluttering of their wings made a pleasant sound amongst the reeds, and the constant twittering of individuals combined to make a well sustained song. Yet, in spite of their apparent timidity, the birds were bold enough, for I walked into the open close to the rushes, and whilst many birds flew away, others sat looking at me from a distance of a few yards only, or swooped from the sky to settle close beside me. I was in need of a few specimens of Wagtails, so fired a couple of shots with a 410 bore at birds on the reeds, but the reports did not unsettle more than a portion of such birds as had taken up their places. The majority of the birds appear to prefer as a sleeping place positions low down in the reed tangles about a foot or two from the surface of the water. It was now growing too dark to pick out individual species satisfactorily, so I left the pool in peace for the birds to settle for the night.

Under the circumstances described above it was, of course, quite impossible to be sure to what species the majority of the birds belonged, and many of the birds were in nondescript types of plumage, only to be identified with much study in the cabinet. The following species were, however, common:—the White Wagtail *(Motacilla alba)*, the Grey-headed Wagtail *(Motacilla borealis)*, Syke's Blue-headed Wagtail *(Motacilla beema)*, and the Yellow-headed Wagtail *(Motacilla citreola)*. I also identified the Masked Wagtail *(Motacilla personata)* and the Black-headed Wagtail *(Motacilla feldeggi)*. Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail *(Motacilla citreoloides)* may easily have been present too, as I had secured a specimen on the previous day about five miles away. The Water Pipits and Reed Buntings were, however, conspicuous by their absence, and had doubtless already left for their breeding grounds, though there had been a few of the former species about some marshes in the previous week.

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A Californian Aviary and its Inmates.

By T. F. M. Williamson.

Concluded from page 78.

In the other aviary I have the following:

2 Virginia Cardinals *(Cardinalis cardinalis)*.
2 Chinese Bulbuls *(Pycnonotus sinensis)*.
2 East India Grosbeaks.
1 Crested Mynah (♂) *(Acridotheres cristatellus)*.

1 Malabar Starling (♂) *(Poliopsar malabarica).*
1 Brazilian Hangnest *(Icterus jamaicii).*
1 Spectacled Thrush *(Trochalopterum canorum).*
2 English Thrushes *(Turdus musicus).*
2 English Blackbirds (♂) *(Merula merula).*
2 English Skylarks *(Alauda arvensis).*
2 Bob Whites *(Ortyx virginianus).*

I do not know that I have many remarks of interest to make about these birds. They are fed on insectile mixture, fruit, lettuce and mealworms.

There are a good many Thrushes and Blackbirds in captivity here, but none except my own seem to sing. Mine all do, beginning in the late Fall and continuing through Spring, well into Summer. Perhaps this is because I try to supply them with two or three snails each every day whenever I can get them, and their surroundings in the aviary are as natural as I could make them.

The larks have seed as well as the food mentioned above, and the cock sings beautifully all through the summer. He sings either on the ground or from a perch, but I never knew him to sing while in flight. They started on a nest last May but never finished it.

The Blackbirds are both males—I have been unable to obtain a hen so far—but live in perfect harmony. At the time of writing both are in perfect condition and very tame, taking mealworms from my fingers. None of the thrushes have ever lost their timidity, and are as wild as when I first got them. The cock sings at his best when it is raining gently, and on a thoroughly wet day never seems to tire.

The Hangnest is a ruffian, and passes a good deal of his time looking longingly at the small birds in the adjoining aviary, but he is lively and tame and cheeky, and the company he is in prevents him from becoming over confident. None of them fear him in the least. I once saw the Skylarks give him a good trouncing for some act of his which had not met with their approval. I should be slow however, in recommending him as an aviary bird, as I feel sure he has great power as well as inclination for mischief should the slightest opportunity arise.

I lost a hen Bob White last fall, much to my sorrow, as she was very tame, and I was sure she would nest this Spring. Another hen was got immediately, but the cock does not seem to pay the same attention to her as he did to his first mate, though his attitude towards her may improve when the breeding season comes round. I have kept a number of quail of various sorts from time to time and it has always seemed to me that the hens are more difficult to keep in captivity than their mates. I wonder if others have had the same experience, and what the reason can be. My Bob Whites are fed principally on wild seeds winnowed out of thrashed grain, and the female I lost looked well up to the day of her death.

The Endurance of Birds.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., ETC.

(Continued from page 59).

SHARP-TAILED FINCH *(Uroloncha acuticauda)*: This mannikin used to be quite common on the bird market, but of late years has only appeared infrequently. It is quite a handsome mannikin, not showy in colour, but its garment of ruddy and blackish-brown, brown, and white is quite striking, and very prettily contrasted.

It is a native of India, and is gregarious, feeds principally upon the ground, and as they occur in large flocks are very destructive in the rice fields. In India the nesting season lasts from June to December. The nest is spherical, constructed of grasses and leaves; it is compact and bulky. It is placed in scrub and small trees, both at high and low elevations. The clutch numbers 5 or 6 white eggs.

I have found them hardy and enduring, but a shy breeder, though it has been bred on several occasions.

The treatment required is similar to that already given for Spice and Bengalese finches, which it also resembles in general deportment, characteristics, and habits in the aviary.

STRIATED FINCH *(U. striata)*: A closely allied species and is almost identical in habits deportment, etc., with the preceding species.

It is one of the most familiar finches of India, and frequents inhabited and cultivated districts, breeding nearly the whole year round. The nest, nesting economy, and eggs, are similar to those of *U. acuticauda*.

It has been fairly often bred in this country, and also is quite ready to mate and nest with other species of this group, when a mate of its own kind is not available.

As regards its life and deportment in the aviary, this is identical with that of the preceding species, and need not be repeated here.

It is a pretty and desirable species for a mixed series.

YELLOW-RUMPED FINCH *(Munia flaviprymna)*: Similar in form and colour (different arrangement though) to the Chestnut-breasted Finch, and is equally handsome. With the exception of two fairly large consignments it has not been largely imported, and has only been known to aviculture for about ten years.

Its habits and deportment, both in its native wilds (Australia) and in the aviary, are so similar to those of the Chestnut-breasted Finch, which has already been dealt with in this series, that it would be a waste of space to repeat them.

Though not a free breeder in captivity several aviculturists have successfully bred it.

I have wintered this species out of doors without difficulty, and consider it a most desirable aviary bird.

Its great beauty is seen to great advantage in a naturally planted aviary and its charming colour arrangement makes it a conspicuous object in the aviary.

ZEBRA FINCH *(Taeniopygia castanotis)*. This charming and well known Australian finch is the most prolific of imported finches.

It will adapt itself to any kind of nest receptacle, or construct a domed nest in a bush, shrub or twiggy branch.

While it is perfectly hardy and can be wintered out of doors with impunity, the hens need watching in the spring, especially if it be a cold one and nesting operations are commenced, or there will be losses from egg-binding.

Their treatment is of the simplest description, they thrive on the usual seed *menu*, and many broods are reared on this alone, but they are the better for, when feeding young, insectile mixture and a few live insects.

Though, in pre-war times, almost despised by many because of their commonness and cheapness, nevertheless, they are also deservedly sought after by many, as it is not only one of the most entertaining among all imported species, but also one of the best, if not the best, aviary bird.

One could yarn on indefinitely and interestingly of this wee plebeian among birds, but it is too well known to call for this, and I will reserve space for rarer species, as this series is getting inordinately lengthy.

To be continued.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.)

(Cintinued from page 82).

301.—RED-SIDED ECLECTUS. *Eclectus pectoralis* **W.T.P.**
1st Drummond, 1912. F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912, 338.

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302.—GRAND ECLECTUS. *E. roratus.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. 1st Frenzel †Russ, in 1881 †A.G.B.
HYBRIDS.

GRAND ECLECTUS × CERAM ECLECTUS.
Abroad. Hieronymus in 1888. †A.G.B., quoting *Ibis*, 1890, p. 20.
The young were first considered true-bred roratus.

◆

303.—CERAM ECLECTUS.
HYBRIDS.
See preceding entry.

304.—ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEET. *Palaeornis nepalensis.*

Shore Baily, 1915. See B.N. 1916, 25.

◆

305.—CINGALESE PARRAKEET. *P. eupatria.*

Abroad. 1st, Christensen †Russ.

◆

306.—GREAT-BILLED ANDAMAN PARRAKEET. *P. magnirostris.* **W.T.P.**

1st Houghton Leigh, 1906. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. iv. 536.

◆

307.—RING-NECKED PARRAKEET. *P. torquatus.* **W.T.P.**

Porter, 1900. A. M. viii. 46. †A.G.B. ii. 201.
Abroad. 1st, Wigand. †Russ.
Hybrids.
× Ring-necked Parrakeet (Rose-ringed Parrakeet).

◆

308.—ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET. *P. docilis.*

Hybrids.
ROSE-RINGED × RING-NECKED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

◆

309.—BLOSSOM-HEADED PARRAKEET. *P. cyanocephala.*

W.T.P.'s entry "Bengal Parrakeet (*P. bengalensis*)" probably refers to this species. (E.H.).
Abroad. 1st, Russ †Russ, in 1872. †A.G.B.

◆

310.—BURMESE BLOSSOMHEAD. *P. rosa.* **W.T.P.**

Bred in 1894, †A.G.B.
Abroad. 1st, Russ †Russ.

◆

[311.—MALABAR PARRAKEET. *P. peristerodes.*

Lovell Keays almost succeeded in 1915; one young one hatched, which died by violence when a fortnight old. See A.M. 1916, 267.**]**

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312.—MOUSTACHE OR BANDED PARRAKEET. *P. fasciata.* **W.T.P.**

The Moustache Parrakeet appears in Page's list with the note "*vide* Banded Parrakeet," but the latter is conspicuous by its absence.

313.—BARRABAND'S PARRAKEET. *Polytelis barrabandi.* W.T.P.

1st, Farrar. A.S. Medal, 1900. See A.M. vi. 217.

HYBRIDS.

BARRABAND'S × BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET.

Abroad. 1st, Kohler †Russ.

× Barraband's (King Parrot).
× Barraband's (Black-tailed Parrakeet).

314.—BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET. *P. melanura.* W.T.P.

Johnstone, 1903. †A.G.B. ii. 209.

HYBRIDS.

BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET × BARRABAND'S PARRAKEET. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET W.T.P.

× Black-tailed Parrakeet (Barraband's).
× Black-tailed Parrakeet (Alexandra Parrakeet).

315.—ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET. *Spathopterus alexandrae.* W.T.P.

1st, Astley, 1912. A.S. and F.B.C. Medals. See A.M. (3). iii. 243, and B.N. 1912, 338.

HYBRIDS.

ALEXANDRA × BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

× Alexandra Parrakeet (Black-tailed Parrakeet).

316.—CRIMSON-WING PARRAKEET. *Ptistes erythropterus.* W.T.P.

Morshead, 1901. A.M. viii. 34. †A.G.B. ii. 210.

Abroad. 1st Seybold, †Russ. And bred in France in 1880. See A.M., vol. iii.

HYBRIDS.

× Crimsonwing (King Parrot).

317.—KING PARROT. *Aprosmictus cyanopygius.* W.T.P.

Abroad. 1st Kohler, †Russ. And bred in France in 1880. See A.M., vol. iii.

HYBRIDS.

KING PARROT × BARRABAND'S PARRAKEET. W.T.P.
,, ,, × CRIMSONWING. W.T.P.

318.—MADAGASCAR LOVEBIRD. *Agapornis cana.* **W.T.P.**.

Bred by Wiener and others †A.G.B. ii. 214.
Abroad. 1st Russ †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.

319.—PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD. *A. roseicollis.* **W.T.P.**

Cooksedge. See A.M. v. 190. Zoo, 1909.
Abroad. 1st Brehm, †Russ. "easily bred," †Russ.

320.—BLACK-CHEECKED LOVEBIRD. *A. nigrigenis.* **W.T.P.**

1st Phillipps, 1908. See A.M. (2) vi. 317.
Fairly frequently since.

[321.—RED-FACED LOVEBIRD. *A. pullaria.*

Porter records (A.M. (2) ii. 350) the hatching of two young, which died after leaving the rest.**]**

322.—PENNANT'S PARRAKEET. *Platycercus elegans.* **W.T.P.**

Success recorded in the Report of the U. K. Foreign Cage-bird Society, January, 1892.
Fairly frequently bred, see A.M. v. 190.
Abroad. 1st Baselle †Russ.
HYBRIDS.

PENNANT × ROSELLA. W.T.P.
The so-called Red-mantled Parrakeet (*P. erythropeplus*). Some were advertised in B.N., 1912, at £3 10s. each.

PENNANT × YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.
× Pennant (Adelaide Parrakeet).

323.—ADELAIDE PARRAKEET. *P. adelaidae.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Fasey. A.S. Medal, 1907. A.M., n.s. vi. 342.
HYBRIDS.
ADELAIDE PARRAKEET × PENNANT. W.T.P.

324.—YELLOW-BELLIED PARRAKEET. *P. flaviventris.*

Abroad. 1st, Cornely †Russ in 1882 †A.G.B. ii. 222.
HYBRIDS.
× Yellow-bellied Parrakeet (Yellow-collared Parrakeet).

325.—YELLOW-RUMPED PARRAKEET. *P. flaveolus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Fasey, 1904. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. ii. 353.
HYBRIDS.

YELLOW-RUMPED PARRAKEET × ROSELLA. W.T.P.

◆

326.—MEALY ROSELLA. *P. pallidiceps.* **W.T.P.**
Sergeant (before 1895) records success. A.M. i. 124.
C. P. Arthur, 1899. *Notes on Cage Birds*, ii. p. 185.
Abroad. 1st, von Croy, †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
× Mealy Rosella (Rosella).
× Mealy Rosella (Redrump).

◆

327.—ROSELLA. *P. eximius.* **W.T.P.**
Frequently bred. A.G.B. ii. 224.
Abroad. 1st, Sack †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.
HYBRIDS.
ROSELLA × MEALY ROSELLA. W.T.P.
,, × REDRUMP. W.T.P.
,, × YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.
× Rosella (Pennant).
× Rosella (Redrump).
× Rosella (Stanley Parrakeet).
× Rosella (Yellow-rumped Parrakeet).

◆

328.—STANLEY PARRAKEET. *P. icterotis.*
J. Smith, 1915. See B.N., 1915, 285.
HYBRIDS.
STANLEY PARRAKEET × ROSELLA. W.T.P.

◆

329.—RED-CAPPED PARRAKEET. *Porphyrocephalus spurius.* **W.T.P.**

To be continued.

◆

A Country Garden.

By. F. R.

Reprinted from " The Australasian," with thanks to the Author and Editor.—Cutting per J. Hume.—Ed., B.N.

I have several times noticed that one of the best places to look for birds is a country garden, especially a garden that is surrounded by trees. There are, of course, two very obvious reasons why this should be so. In the first place,as the soil is continually being disturbed, there is a wealth of grub and insect life available as food, while the trees themselves furnish a fair quota of grubs and insects. Then there is the attraction of the fruit itself. It is, therefore, not at all surprising that birds which are almost unknown in the immediately-surrounding district should be quite common in a good garden. Usually, too, the owners of these gardens, even if not actively interested in the birds themselves, are at any rate not hostile to them; and the majority of gardeners now understand that most of the birds are of valuable assistance to them.

I know one of these large gardens which has for its feathered inhabitants a singular mixture of imported and native birds. Dealing with the former first, there are scores of Goldfinches, which nest freely right amongst the fruit-trees. A fruit-tree is a favourite nesting-place with the Goldfinch, whose nest is usually placed so low in the tree that it can often be reached from the ground. It is, however, often also so cleverly concealed as not to be visible until autumn strips the leaves from the tree Starlings also are very common, and so far they have not touched the fruit, contenting themselves with the teeming grub-life. As there are no available hollows, they do not nest in the garden. There are several pairs of Blackbirds, which are very rare in the district. The Blackbirds are breeding slowly. They nest in the garden, and are very shy. Though they take toll of the fruit, they are not molested, as their numbers are small. There are, also, several English Thrushes, which do not interfere with the fruit. Both the Thrush and the Blackbird are welcomed on account of their melody. Sparrows, of course, are numerous, and are, decidedly, not welcomed.

First in importance amongst the native birds in the garden is our own Harmonious, or Grey, Thrush, which is represented by four or five pairs. It is altogether unobjectionable, as it is a keen insect-hunter, and does not trouble the fruit. The Silver-eye, or White-eye, is common; and, as is the case generally, is given a hostile reception. There is, of course, no denying that, in the off season, the Silver-eye is a grub-eater; but, when the fruit is ripe, and ripening, he plays the mischief with it. So that the orchardist everywhere declares war against him . The grub-loving Grallina, or Magpie-Lark, is a common frequenter of the garden, and is always welcomed. In the autumn and winter there are always a few of both the Flame-breasted and Scarlet-breasted Robins, and everybody is pleased to see them, and is sorry when—as the weather gets warm—they take their departure. Just about when the robins leave the cuckoos arrive—the bronze and the fantail—and their calling is looked upon as one of the signs of spring. The pretty little Yellow-rumped Tit—the Tom-tit of school boys—is very common, and it is in its nest that the Bronze Cuckoo usually places its egg. This habit of the Bronze Cuckoo is the reason why this tit is not much more plentiful that it is, as probably a third of the tits spend the breeding season bringing up young cuckoos instead of young tits. Still, there are a good few of the covered nests of the tits that manage to escape the sharp eyes of the cuckoo, and so the tit continues plentiful in the garden.

There are, of course, many Blue Wrens; and in the spring the magnificent cobalt of the male, as he darts about amongst his harem of homely-dressed females, gives a brilliant note of an unusual colour to the garden. The Blue Wren is very fond of gardens, and even the smallest of cottage plots will usually be found to be the home of a family of them. The common Ground-lark—the one that " shows the white feather " when it flies—is not a garden bird. It loves the open, breezy country. Yet, occasionally, one is seen on the outskirts of the garden though it never stays long, and seems to feel out of place. It is the same with the pretty little White-fronted Chat, or Ring-neck, which is another bird of the plains or open country. In the early spring the freshly-turned earth brings both magpie and kook-aburras, who become very bold or confiding, taking the grubs almost from the spade of the gardener. Last spring a pair of the Brown Tits were seen, but they did not stay long and quite recently a solitary Bronze-wing Pigeon has been noticed. It has made its home in a clump of old *Pinus insignis*, and looks as if it were going to stay. In the summer a few parrots appear, chiefly Rosellas, though occasionally a pair of Grass Parrakeets haunt the place.

In flower and blossom time, August and September, honey-eaters are common. Several pairs of the common White-naped Honey-eater have been seen, while there are almost always a few of both the Yellow-faced and White-eared. The commonest of all, the White-plumed, or Greenie, is always about. The honey-eaters are not interfered with of course, as they are, if not particularly useful, at any rate, harmless. The familiar Black-and-White Fantail—or willie wagtail—is common, and is, as usual, the most privileged inhabitant of the garden. Tamest of many tame birds, he hardly troubles to get out of your road, and may be seen flipping about the lawn almost amongst the croquet-players, or perched on the gardener's wheel-barrow the moment the handles are dropped. His rarely seen cousin, the restless Fly-catcher, with his peculiar grinding note, has been observed once—for several days—catching flies at a furious rate. Then he vanished, probably to look for a mate.

Even at night-time there is much life in the garden. It is hardly dusk before the bats come out of the ivy and hawk for insects amongst the fruit-trees. And, before it is quite dark, the Brown, or Boobook Owl is on the wing, snapping up stray sparrows. Afterwards the lovely delicate owl flits noiselessly about, pouncing upon mice, or beating out a starling or two from the hedges. And, occasionally, the weird scream of the powerful owl is heard, though the bird itself is very seldom seen. From a thick group of huge pines quite a little army of opossums, both ring-tail and grey, descend upon the garden at night. There is open and continued warfare waged upon the opossum family, who work havoc amongst the fruit and vegetables. There are no eucalyptus trees about, so that the opossums depend solely on the garden for subsistence;

and they wax fat on the apples, and the cabbages and cauliflowers. I have had considerable experience of opossums, and I have come to the conclusion that they prefer a ripe apple to any other food. I have known them to raid a house in search of this delicacy. Therefore, a variety of snares are set for them; but, in spite of the fact that there is always a skin or two drying on, if not gracing, the stable-door, the ranks of the opossums do not appear to be materially thinned. Occasionally a fox is found in one of the traps, and the gardener avers that he, too comes after the fruit. But, in spite of the scriptural references to the little foxes that spoil the vines, I prefer to believe that it is feathers that he is in search of.

Very few of the birds I have named interfere with the flowers or fruit. Curiously enough, the worst offender is the magpie, who seems to take an impish delight in pulling delicate plants to pieces. I have seen rare and handsome palms completely spoiled by magpies, who were using the fragments for nesting purposes. So persistent were they that the gun had at last to be used on them.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: The Marquis of Tavistock, writing on 11th inst., informs us that he had, up to the present, the following species of parrakeets nesting, viz:

At liberty: Red Rosella, African Ring-neck, and Banded.

In Aviaries: Pileated, Barnard's, Yellow-naped, and Lutino Indian Ring-neck mated with a Lutino Blossom-head.

MR. H. E. BRIGHT writing, on April 28th, states that the following species are incubating clutches of eggs, viz: Red-Mountain, Violet, Diamond, Geoffrey's and Brush Bronze-wing Doves; also Rosella Parrakeets.

The following species are building:

Black Seed-Finches, several pairs of Cardinals, ditto Long-tail Grassfinches, Diamond Sparrows, Sydney Waxbills, Masked Grassfinches, Zebra Finches, etc.

Mr. Bright also reports the following interesting matings, viz:

Red × Yellow African Sparrow.
English × Indian Red-headed Bullfinch.
Red-headed Bunting × English Greenfinch.

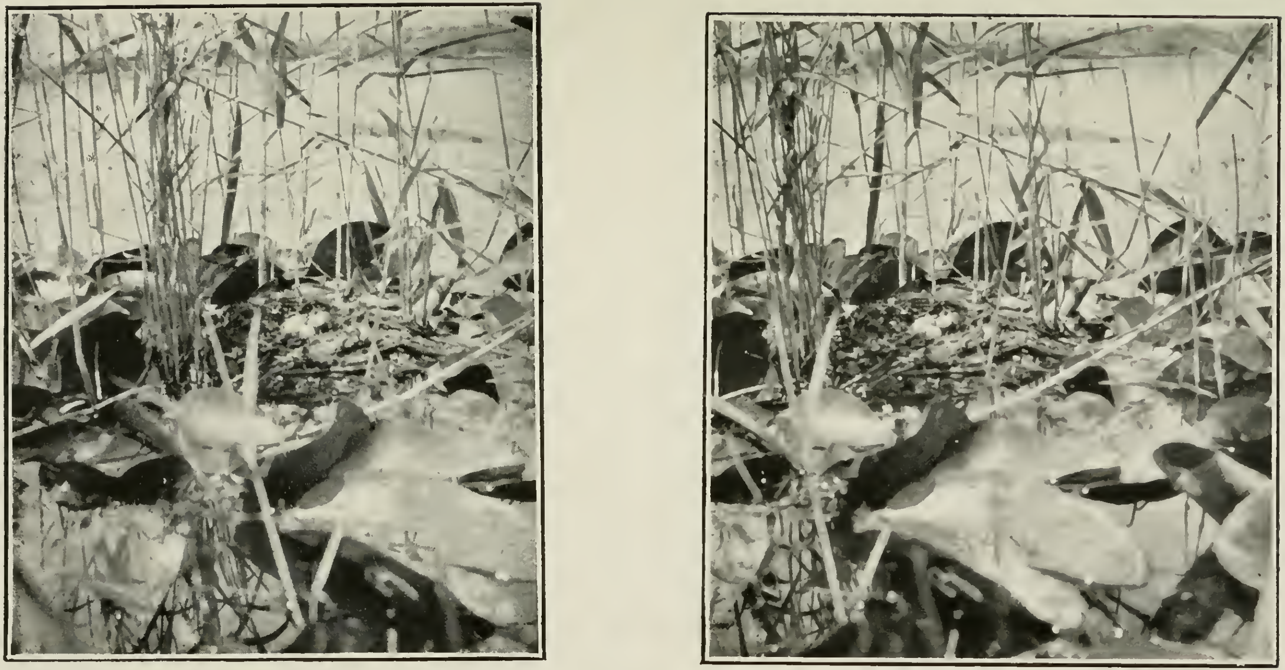
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: The two photo-reproductions in this issue have rather a melancholy interest. They were taken by the late Rev. J. M. Paterson last summer on the Anchar Lake near Srinagar, India. We hope to give further notes re same in a later issue.

INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTION: This will take effect, as stated in the notice included in our last issue, at once, and a notice will be attached to the next issue of BIRD NOTES, asking members to remit the balance of this year's subscription on or about June 30th next--some have already remitted—Quite a number of members have written expressing the reasonableness, necessity, and justice of the step taken, and that it ought to have been taken earlier. There has been no protest. All the Council have now voted on the matter. The decision has been almost unanimous, only two voting against this enforced change.

Correspondence.

SPRING MIGRANTS IN ESSEX.

SIR,—Owing to the unseasonable weather prevailing here (and elsewhere) this spring I have no early dates to record this year. The Wryneck arrived at Darbury on April 8th, and the Cuckoo at Maldon on the 16th. The Chiff-chaff, decidedly late, turned up here (at Hazeleigh) next day. In warm weather, at eleven in the morning, a Tree Pipit was merrily singing his aerial song. At 8 p.m. on the 23rd I heard the enchanting strains of Philomel in a distant copse, and a pair of swallows were flying about my house at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 25th. Next day I observed them flying in and out of an outhouse where they generally nest. They then disappeared for a couple of days during the Arctic weather of Sunday and Monday, 27th and 28th. My rain gauge registered 1.30 ins. of rain, sleet and snow during the twenty-four hours ending at 9 a.m. on the Monday, which day was also thereafter cold but not wet; I quite thought the swallows



Photos Rev J. M. Paterson.

Nests and Eggs of Pheasant-tailed Jacana.
(Hydrophonanies chirurgua).

had perished, and was much relieved at their turning up again on the Tuesday. The Whitethroat came on May 7th, about his usual date, whilst my favourite songster, the Blackcap, put in an appearance on the 10th, which is a day later than I have ever noticed him before. Flycatchers have been here for some little time, but I did not note the day of their arrival.

Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, May 14th, 1919. (Rev.) G. H. RAYNOR.

◆

SPRING ARRIVALS AT NEW MILFORD, HANTS.

SIR,—So far I have noted the following this spring:

April 7. Heard Chiff-chaff.
,, 17. Saw a Swallow (probably Chimney Swallow) about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and several more later. Heard Cuckoo in the evening
,, 18. Heard Willow Warbler.
May 3. Heard Wryneck.
,, 5. Heard Nightingale, also Whitethroat.
,, 7. Saw a House Martin, think I overlooked it, as I have an idea it had arrived a day or so previously. Also heard and saw Lesser Whitethroat, and heard what appeared to be a Nightjar very faintly.
,, 8. I heard what appeared to be a Swift in the evening.
,, 9. Heard the Grasshopper Warbler near Holmesley Station in the New Forest, also another warbler, which, I think, was a Reed Warbler.

New Milford, Hants, May 11th, 1919. J. WEIR.

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INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTION, ETC.

SIR,—As a member of the Club, I just wish to say that I think we all recognise the necessity for raising the subscription. We all know we have to pay more for every magazine and book we buy, and we cannot expect to get BIRD NOTES at pre-war price. Also, I agree with a "lady member's" letter. Personally, I have made several friends through the Club; some of them I have never seen and only know by correspondence, generally started by the exchange of birds. Our members are very scattered, and perhaps it is a little difficult to develop on the social side, but perhaps something might be done on the lines indicated in the letter.

(Mrs.) ALICE CHATTERTON

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SIR,—I notice that this month's BIRD NOTES speaks of an increase in the subscription, which I will duly forward. It is the safest and justest way

of meeting the deficit and increased charges, and all should approve.
May 5th, 1919. (Miss) MARY GERRARD.

◆

CURIOUS ATTACHMENT BETWEEN COCK PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—The following rather curious attachment between two cock birds may be worth publishing in "B.N."

Last summer I had a pair of African Ring-neck Parrakeets *(Palaeornis docilis)* and a pair of Alexandrines *(P. alexandra)*. The Ring-necks and cock Alexandrine had complete liberty, the hen Alexandrine being kept in an aviary on the top of which the other birds were fed. During the winter the hen Ring-neck strayed and was lost, and the cock, who had always been on good terms with the Alexandrine, became more friendly with him than ever after the loss of his mate. The two were always together and often used to march round and round one another, making remarks expressive of mutual affection and esteem. In February I shut the Alexandrine up with the hen. At first he was miserable at the loss of his liberty and the companionship of his bachelor friend, while the Ring-neck was equally unhappy, and spent all his time trying to get into the aviary. In time, however, the Alexandrine became sufficiently reconciled to respond to his mate and feed her, but he remained on equally cordial terms with the cock Ring-neck, and they fed one another through the wire netting. Some weeks ago I obtained another mate for the Ring-neck. He did not take to her for some time, but ultimately, when she came into breeding condition, he consented to set up housekeeping with her in a dead tree. He still, however, remains faithful to the Alexandrine and feeds him in his spare time.

The two hens consider their husband's behaviour very silly, and the Alexandrine often cuts short the Ring-neck's demonstrations by biting his toes.

It is not uncommon for two unmated male birds to develop a strong attachment for one another, which may even lead them to refuse female society when it is subsequently offered them, but, I have never known such a friendship continue when the gentlemen were enjoying the blessings of married life!
April 22nd, 1919. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

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BUDGERIGARS AND THEIR COLOUR VARIETIES.

Sir,—I am one of the novice-members, but possibly a few notes of my Budgerigars and how I breed them may be of interest.

First, let me say how interested I am in the colour varieties of this beautiful and interesting species. At present I have Greens, Yellows (some of these have blue tails, others have nearly white tails and wings), Olive-

Greens, which, I think, are at present the only pair in England; also Apple-Greens. The latter I bred in 1918 and they are very similar to the Olives—these two varieties are very much alike, the difference in the Apple-Greens is the yellow areas are nearly white and the markings all but black; the Olives are lightish olive-green, much more yellow, and the markings very dark olive-green; their tails are much darker blue than the Apple-Greens (I am afraid they are both males), and both varieties are of quite a different shade of colour to the ordinary Green species. The Olives, I understand, were bred after many years of experimentation by a French gentleman.

I hear Mrs. Ransome has, from her Blue-bred Greens, what Mr. Marsden terms Apple-green Yellows. Mr. Marsden has at times bred, from his Blue-bred Greens, Apple-Greens, but of a different shade of green, and much more yellow than mine.

I think Budgerigars are the easiest of all birds to breed; mine are in an outdoor aviary, and give a minimum of trouble. I always remove the husks from November to April, and I find this gives the birds a chance to moult easier and pick up generally after a hard season.

When the young leave the husk, or even before if well grown, I take them away and cage them, or the parent birds and others may pluck them, but, as a rule they are most devoted parents to their young, even dying on the nest in their defence.

I am trying to buy more Blues, and hope by inter-breeding Blues, Olives, and Apple-Greens, to get other colour varieties.

(Mrs.) M. BURGESS.

Book Notices and Reviews.

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS: With 18 coloured plates and numerous text figures, in 18 monthly parts. 4s. net per part. London: Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Part II. is now issued, and fully confirms the favourable impression we formed of Part I. This part continues the *FRINGILLIDÆ* and covers genera *Carduelis*, *Serinus*, *Pyrrhula*, *Carpodacus*, *Pinicola*, *Loxia*, *Fringilla*, *Montifringilla* *Passer*, and *Emberiza*. The text figures are numerous and valuable. There is a good half-tone plate figuring five species of Redpoll, viz: Lesser *(Carduelis l. cabaret)*, Mealy *(C. l. linaria)*, Greenland *(C. l. rostrata)*, Cones's *(C. h. exilipes)*, and Hornemann's *(C. h. hornemanni).* Also an exquisite coloured plate, figuring the heads of 10 species of *Emberiza*, ♂ and ♀ of five species and ♂ only of the others.

We repeat what we said in our review of Part I.; this work is a necessity to every observer and student of British Bird life, and is a concise compendium of all that pertains thereto up to the date of issue.

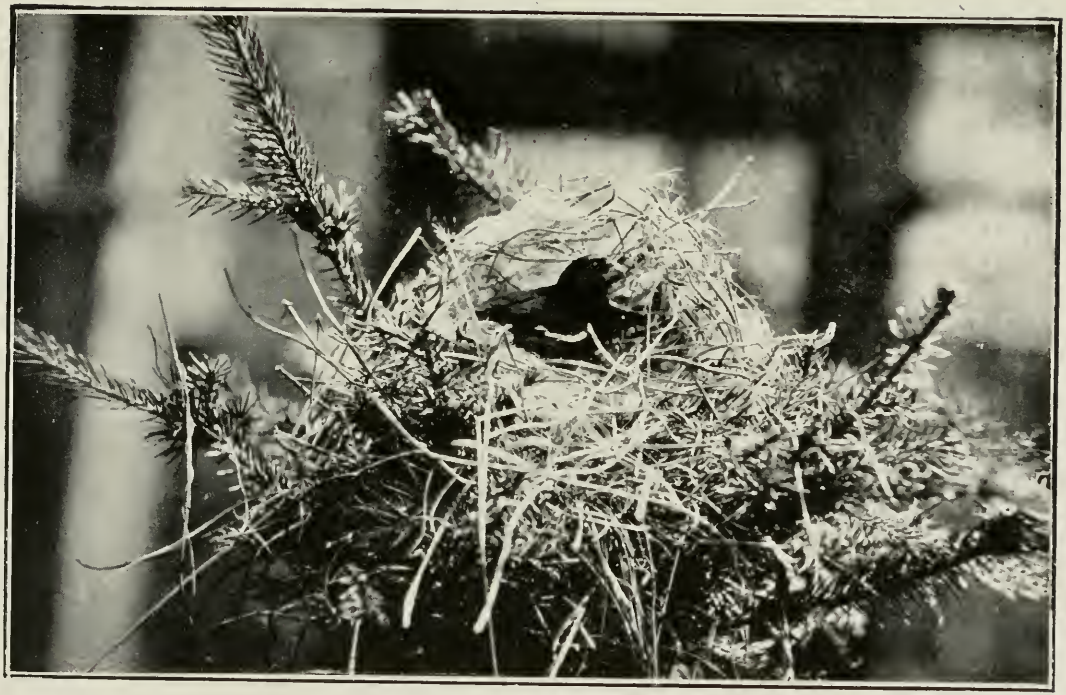

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black Seed-Finch on Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

1918 in the Boyers House Aviaries.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

The year 1918, although one that we shall always remember as "Victory Year," seems to have been by no means a successful one in our aviaries. Whether the birds have been affected by a loss of vitality, owing to the poor quality of their food, as has been the case with many of their owners, or whether the want of fresh blood, through the lack of importations, during the last four years, has reduced their vigour, I am unable to say, but it seems certain that very few birds were bred in captivity last season. One or two of our members seem to have had reasonable luck, and, I have no doubt our Editor would welcome (very much so.—Ed.) an account of their successes.

In these aviaries I have had nothing of interest to record. Far more birds have perished than were bred. Amongst those that succumbed from illness were:

From pneumonia.

Severe Macaws, Crimson-ringed Whydah, Orchard Finch, Jackson's Whydah, Argoondah Quail, Sikhim Siskin, 2 Chukar Partridges, and Stanley Parrakeet.

From Congestion of the Brain.

2 Masked Doves and a Diamond Dove.

In addition to these losses, an invasion of rats, with which I was unable to cope, carried off another 40 to 50 birds, so my aviaries are at the present time (May, 1919), nearly empty.

The rat question is a very serious one to all aviculturists, and one which is always liable to crop up in any aviary. I understand our Editor has to face the problem himself just now (my losses fully equal those of Mr. Shore Baily, and the difficulty is not entirely overcome as yet.—Ed.). My practise is to sink galvanised sheets 2 feet into the ground all round the aviaries, taking care that the joints at the corners are properly made. In hard ground this is absolutely effective. Those of my aviaries that were surrounded by cinder paths, taken quite close to the galvanised sheets, were immune from the pests When these paths are not possible great care should be taken to see that the corners of the various enclosures are kept free from undergrowth or rubbish, as it is here that these pests attempt to break in; if this occurs the only thing to do is to remove the birds at once. I omitted to do this thinking I should be able to get rid of the pests, but although I shot a dozen, poisoned others, and trapped several, I was unsuccessful

The birds that nested here last season were:

Rosella Parrakeets *(Platycercus eximius)* five young ones being fully reared.

Stanley Parrakeets *(P. icterotis)* five young hatched, but not reared.

Mexican Quail *(Colinus pectoralis)*, all the young taken by rats.

Californian Quail *(Lophortyx californica)* several reared, all taken by rats except three.

Jungle Quail *(Perdicula asiatica)* two reared.

Bronze-winged Dove *(Phaps chalcoptera)* two reared.

Brush Bronze-winged Dove *(P. elegans)* one reared.

Peaceful Dove *(Geopelia tranquilla)* six reared.

Diamond Dove *(G. cuneata)* ten reared.

Hybrid Necklace Dove *(Turtur tigrinus × T. senegalensis)* eight reared.

Japanese Hawfinch *(Eophonia melanura)* four hatched, all died

Hybrid Chinese Greenfinch *(Liqurinus sinica × chrysomitris spinoides)* six reared.

Finch Lark *(Pyrrhulauda leucotis)* two hatched, taken by rats.

Reed Buntings *(Emberiza schoeniclus)* three hatched, taken by rats.

Chukar Partridge *(Caccabis chukar)* had eggs, did not hatch.

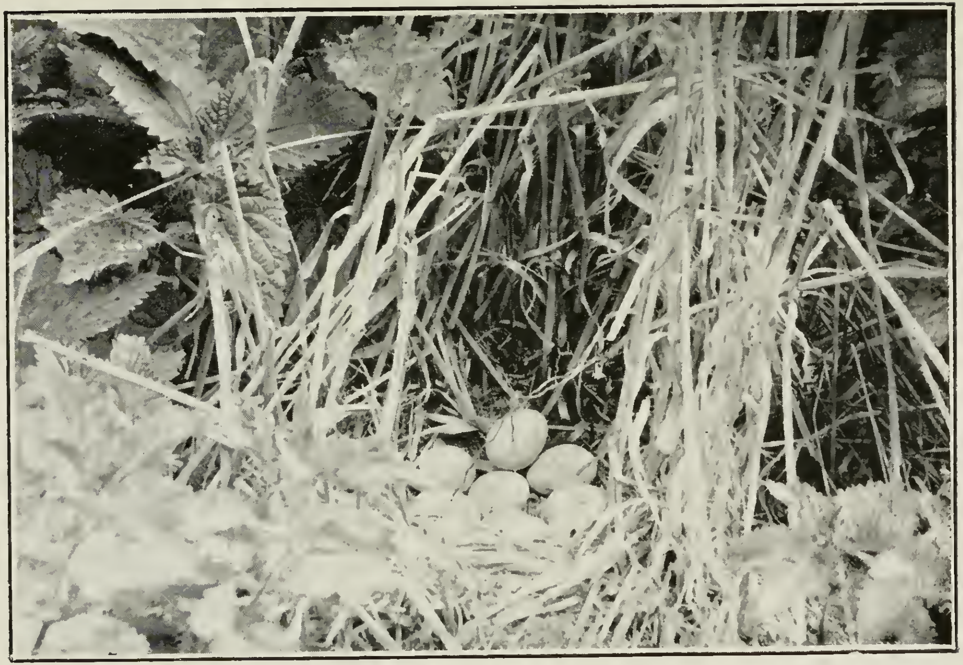

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Chukar Partridge.

St. Thomas' Conure *(Conurus pertinax)* had eggs, did not hatch

Sikhim Siskin *(Chrysomitris spinoides)* had eggs, did not hatch

Black Seedfinch *(Melopyrrha nigra)* had eggs, did not hatch.

Cirl Buntings *(Emberiza cirlus)* had eggs, did not hatch.

A very poor record.

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Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 101).

PALÆORNIS PARRAKEETS.

The Long-tailed Parrakeets of Asia and Africa are more tolerant of close confinement than the Australian species, and most of them will live quite happily in a good sized cage, and lay eggs in a small aviary; for successful and regular breeding however, fresh air and flying exercise are usually needed. Most, if not all, species are normally single-brooded and have an inclination to breed very early in the year, a habit to be discouraged as far as possible when they are kept out of doors. For a considerable part of the year the sexes show little or no affection for one another, and the cock leads a somewhat hen-pecked existence. This lack of conjugal affection should be borne in mind when giving birds their liberty at a time when the sexual instinct is dormant. A male Broadtail will not willingly desert his partner at any season, but a Palæornis will clear off as if glad to be rid of the vixen, and anyone who has witnessed her selfish or bullying conduct will hardly blame him! Palæornis Parrakeets are uncertain birds when allowed their freedom, and different individuals of the same species may behave in a variety of ways, both sensible and foolish. Some never go more than a few hundred yards from the place where they were first released; some travel long distances, but possess a good homing instinct and never fail to return; some stay well for months and then wander off for no apparent reason and lose themselves; others go right away the day they are let out. The best plan is to release them hungry, in the early morning, near food and a companion, in a place where they have lived for a long time. If they should stray they are quite likely to be caught a day or two later in a famishing condition, as they have little idea of foraging for themselves, and an experience of this kind often has a salutary effect on their future behaviour. A bird which has grown attached to a particular place will sometimes stay there all its life, even without a companion. Many people will remember the cock Ring-neck which frequented a corner of Kensington Gardens for over four years; I provided him with a mate some months before his death, and after he was gone she stayed on in the same place until she joined him in a better land. A single Broadtail, on the other hand, always becomes a wanderer.

Palæornis Parrakeets will use an ordinary nest-box or log, but are rather fond of one with a long spout for an entrance.

They should be fed on the same seed mixture as Broadtails, with plenty of fruit, particularly soft fruit, which they much prefer to green food. Some species become fair talkers, but the larger kinds, which are the most accomplished, are apt to screech. The majority of Palæornis Parrakeets stand cold extremely well once they are properly hardened off, and should be allowed to bathe at all seasons.

Palæornis Parrakeets are subject to a beautiful form of albinism in which the green feathers are replaced by canary yellow, the pink alone being retained of the normal plumage. "Lutinos," which are usually females, are quite as hardy and prolific as normally coloured birds, and with patience and good fortune it should be possible to establish a strain in captivity.

The sexes of Palæornis, when adult, are easily distinguished, but young male birds and females are much alike, and the former, in some cases, are said to remain more than two years in immature plumage.

INDIAN RING-NECKED PARRAKEET *(Palæornis torquata).*

A very common and well known bird; the adult male can be easily recognised by his lilac collar and black throat Ringnecks vary greatly in disposition when kept in mixed company; the majority are more peaceable than Broadtails when associated with other parrots, and perhaps a trifle less trustworthy with birds of other orders. A number can usually be kept together out of the breeding season. In addition to its unpleasantly shrill call-note the Ring-neck possesses a kind of " song " which is distinctly agreeable out of doors, though too loud for a room. In an aviary the Ring-neck is destructive to woodwork at certain times of the year, but does not bite through wire netting.

As a cage pet the cock alone is to be recommended, the hen being usually noisy, uninteresting, ill-tempered, and unable to talk.

Ring-necks can be wintered out of doors.

AFRICAN RING-NECK *(Palæornis docilis).*

Very like the Indian bird in all respects, save that it possesses a dark-coloured beak instead of a bright red one. It is equally hardy and is usually, as its name implies, a more docile and better-behaved occupant of the aviary than *P. torquata*.

ALEXANDRINE PARRAKEET *(Palæornis alexandrina).*

The Alexandrine Parrakeet is the largest member of the family, and, everything considered, may be regarded as a good-tempered bird in all company, able to take care of itself when attacked, but preferring to live at peace with its neighbours. It is, however, very destructive to woodwork, and has a voice to waken the dead. Mine appear unable to bite wire netting, and at liberty were not destructive to trees, as I expected they would be; in fact, the Alexandrine is rather a nice bird to keep loose if you can trust your neighbours not to shoot him; he looks fine on the wing, has a good idea of finding his way about, is too big for vermin to tackle, and can stand any weather. If given plenty of fruit at home, it will not, as a rule, occur to him to help himself from the orchard.

Some people have found the Alexandrine an intelligent and affectionate pet, but the majority of these birds are much too noisy for the house. Both sexes have the red wing-bar but the cock alone has a ring round the neck.

MALABAR PARRAKEET *(Palæornis malabarica).*

A very beautiful species, but, unfortunately rarely imported. It is hardy, but the hens are very subject to egg-binding and must not be allowed to lay at a low temperature. The adult male has a red beak, and the female a black one besides differing somewhat in plumage. It does well at liberty.

MOUSTACHE PARRAKEET *(Palæornis fasciata (?)).*

A common and hardy species, not particularly trustworthy in mixed company. The adult male has a red beak, and the female a black one.

PLUM-HEADED PARRAKEET *(Palæornis cyanocephala).*
BLOSSOM-HEADED PARRAKEET *(Palæornis rosa).*

Two closely allied species or local forms of one race The Plum-head is one of the most beautiful of all Parrakeets, and it is strange that it is not a greater favourite. It is hardy and easily kept and is not unpleasantly noisy or quarrelsome. It does not require much room, being a small bird, and will live either in a cage, birdroom, or outdoor aviary. Hens are scarce, and aviculturists are often disappointed through buying a young cock in immature plumage, with lavender head and short tail A genuine female is usually smaller than a young male and has a narrower and more effeminate head.

LONG-TAILED PARRAKEET *(Palæornis longicauda).*

A beautiful bird, but not suitable for English aviculture; it is of all parrots the most sensitive to cold, and requires a temperature of at least 70 degrees to keep it healthy and happy. Anything below 60 degrees reduces it to a condition of shivering misery, usually ending in a fatal chill. The male possesses a longer tail than his mate. Naturally the Long-tailed Parrakeet has a reputation for doing badly in confinement, but I found no difficulty with mine as long as they had a hot-house temperature and plenty of fruit.

(To be continued).

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Thrush-Blackbird Hybrids.

By Geo. Crabb.

In a letter to Bird Notes for August 1917, Dr Hopkinson made enquiries about a Thrush-Blackbird Hybrid then in the Small Birds' House at the Zoo, and in Bird Notes for September of same year a very full account of what Mr. J H. Anderson, Darvel, had accomplished up to then in breeding this cross, was given by the Editor of *Cage Birds*.

In the same letter Dr. Hopkinson made enquiry about a hybrid of same kind shown at the Crystal Palace in February 1872.

This enquiry has prompted me to get together the following particulars of exhibits of Thrush-Blackbird or Blackbird-Thrush Hybrids.

(1) I find, through the courtesy of Mr. T. Heath, who has referred to the catalogue, that the Hybrid referred to by Dr. Hopkinson was exhibited at the Crystal Palace show in February 1872 as Blackbird-Thrush cock, age 16 months, by Mr. A. Skinner, West St., Faversham, and was awarded one of the three prizes. From the particulars given one would suppose that the parents were Blackbird ♂-Thrush ♀—also, if this supposition is correct one would consequently conclude that the bird was bred by the exhibitor and was not a wild bird reared from the nest, and the age being stated in months also points to the same supposition. Still, the possibility of it being a wild bird reared from the nest is possibly not absolutely precluded. I have written to the address given by the exhibitor, but got the reply that no one of the name was known, and that no information could be given about the bird; at which I was not surprised, considering the lapse of time.

(2) Mr. John Robson informs me that in 1890 Mr. Geo. Hill, of High St., Marylebone (who later went to America) showed at the Crystal Palace a Thrush-Blackbird Hybrid, and was awarded 1st prize, but that this bird was afterwards disputed by many, and Mr. Robson thinks it was not shown again anywhere. He adds, " If it were a genuine specimen it certainly took more after the Blackbird than to the Thrush."

(3) Mr. Robson also tells me that a Mr. Surman, of

Oxford, showed a supposed Blackbird-Thrush Hybrid at the Crystal Palace in February 1901, and was wrong classed. I do not associate this bird in any way with the following, exhibited same year.

(4) Mr. C. Cooper of Brixton, exhibited at L.C.B.A Show, Royal Aquarium, 19th to 21st November, 1901, a Thrush Blackbird Hybrid, and Mr. Cooper tells me the lower mandible of this bird was yellowish, and, as I understand, a different colour from the upper mandible. In connection with this exhibit Mr. John Frostick, who has furnished me with the above particulars from the L.C.B.A catalogue, adds that he saw this bird and remembers it quite well. It was one of a nest of four, all of which were advertised in *Feathered World* as Thrush-Blackbird Hybrids by the man who reared them at Peckham or Camberwell. Mr. Frostick went to see them before Mr. Cooper saw and bought them, and he considered them genuine, but would not like to say, after this lapse of time if they were bred Thrush ♂ and Blackbird ♀ or *vice versa*.

The birds were eventually sold through a dealer to a well known ornithologist.

I have seen two Thrush-Blackbird or Blackbird-Thrush skins in this ornithologist's collection, and if these represent the birds above mentioned, which I believe they do, I would say that in their case, the Blackbird was the male parent.

From what I learn up to now, I understand that these were wild birds reared from the nest, and that a Blackbird ♂ was seen at the nest at one time, and at another time a Thrush.

(5) The Thrush-Blackbird Hybrids recently bred by Mr. T. H. Anderson, of Darvel, previously fully reported on.

One additional interesting fact communicated to me by Mr. Anderson is, that all the cocks were very much alike, and all the hens very much alike, although differing in appearance one from the other.

My enquiries have not extended beyond exhibits at London shows, and it is probable there are other cases of the cross having been exhibited at country shows. If, therefore anyone can add to the above list, I shall be glad.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).
(Continued from page 111.)

330.—BARNARD'S PARRAKEET. *Barnardius barnardi.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Johnstone, A.S. Medal, 1902. See A.M. viii. 249.
Abroad, 1st Cornely †Russ.
Hybrids.

BARNARD'S PARRAKEET × YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

× Barnard's Parrakeet (Bauer's Parrakeet).

◆

331.—YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET. *B. semitorquatus.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo. 1912.
Hybrids.

YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET × YELLOW-BELLIED PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET × BAUER'S PARRAKEET.

Abroad. Pays-Mellier. †Russ. In 1882 at Champigny †A.G.B. ii. 227.

YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET × BARNARD'S PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

× Yellow-collared Parrakeet (Barnard's).
× Yellow-collared Parrakeet (Pennant).
× Yellow-collared Parrakeet (Rosella).

◆

332.—BAUER'S PARRAKEET. *B. zonarius.*

Hybrids.

BAUER'S PARRAKEET × BARRABAND'S PARRAKEET. W.T.P.

× Bauer''s Parrakeet (Barnard's).

◆

333.—RED-VENTED PARRAKEET. *Psephotus haematorhous.* **W.T.P.**

1st Duncan Parker, 1911. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) ii. 269.
Abroad. In Belgium. †Russ.

◆

334.—BEAUTIFUL PARRAKEET. *P. pulcherrimus.*

Abroad. 1st, Princess Saxe Coburg Gotha. †Russ.
In Vienna, 1880 †A.G.B. ii. 230.
Hybrids.

BEAUTIFUL PARRAKEET × REDRUMP.

Abroad. Princess von Croy in Belgium before 1881. A.G.B. ii. 230, quoting Russ.

335.—GOLDEN-SHOULDERED PARRAKEET. *P. chrysopterygius.*
Hybrids.
GOLDEN-SHOULDERED × MANY-COLOURED PARRAKEET.
W.T.P. I saw one in the Zoo in 1901. (E.H.)

336.—HOODED PARRAKEET. *P. cucullatus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Astley, 1912, F.B.C. Medal. B.N. 1912, 338.

337.—MANY-COLOURED PARRAKEET. *P. multicolor.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Farrar, 1902. A.S. Medal. A.M. viii. 212.
Abroad. In Belgium †Russ; in France. See A.M. vol. iii.
Hybrids.
× Many-coloured Parrakeet (Golden-shouldered).

338.—RED-RUMP PARRAKEET. *P. haematonotus.* **W.T.P.**
Easily bred, †Russ and A.G.B. Zoo, 1911.
Abroad. 1st Bodinus †Russ.
Hybrids.
REDRUMP × ROSELLA. W.T.P.
A specimen was exhibited at the C.P. Show, Dec., 1903.
REDRUMP × MEALY ROSELLA. W.T.P.
× Red-rump (Rosella).
× Red-rump (Beautiful Parrakeet).

339.—BOURKE'S PARRAKEET. *Neophema bourkei.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Fasey, 1906. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. iv. 276.
Abroad. 1st, Kessels †Russ.

340.—BLUE-BANDED GRASS-PARRAKEET. *N. venusta.* **W.T.P.**
Abroad. 1st Cornely †Russ.

341.—ELEGANT GRASS-PARRAKEET. *N. elegans.* **W.T.P.**
London Zoo, †Russ.
Sergeant. A.M. ii. 98, before 1896 †A.G.B. ii. 233.

342.—ROCK GRASS-PARRAKEET. *N. petrophila.*
Abroad. 1st, Russ †Russ.

343.—TURQUOISINE. *N. pulchella.* **W.T.P.**

Seth Smith says that it is now extremely rare . . . . but has been bred in captivity . . . . on numerous occasions. In the Zoo numbers were bred between the years 1860 and 1863; †A.G.B. ii. 234. See also A.M. i. 24.

Abroad. 1st in Antwerp Zoo. †Russ.

◆

344.—SPLENDID GRASS-PARRAKEET. *N. splendidus.*

London Zoo †Russ, but Butler writes "in 1872 a young one was *hatched.*" (A.G.B. ii. 235).

Abroad. W.T.P. C.

◆

345.—NEW ZEALAND PARRAKEET. *Cyanorhamphus novae-zealandiae.* **W.T.P.**

Abroad. 1st, Fiedler in 1872, †Russ; and freely in Belgium and France. (A.G.B. ii. 236, quoting Russ).

◆

346.—GOLDEN-CROWNED PARRAKEET. *C. auriceps.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Bouskill, 1897. A.S. Medal. See A.M. iv. 45, 77.

Abroad. 1st, Fiedler, †Russ.

◆

347.—ALPINE PARRAKEET. *C. malherbei.*

Abroad. Delaurier in 1883, †Russ.

◆

348.—HORNED PARRAKEET. *Nymphicus cornutus.*

HYBRIDS.

HORNED PARRAKEET × UVAEAN PARRAKEET.

Abroad. 1st,Cornely †Russ; in 1883, †A.G.B. ii. 237.

◆

349.—UVAEAN PARRAKEET. *N. uvaeensis.*

HYBRIDS.

See above.

◆

350.—SWIFT PARRAKEET. *Nanodes discolor.*

Abroad. 1st, Rousse, †Russ, (in 1881).

351.—BUDGERIGAR. *Melopsittacus undulatus.* **W.T.P.**
Universally bred.
Abroad. 1st, Graf Schwerin, †Russ
The yellow variety, a later introduction, is also easily bred. The BLUE BUDGERIGAR (of quite recent avicultural history) was first bred in Holland in the eighties; later by Pauwels in Belgium in 1911, and since by Astley and others in Great Britain, but is by no means a free breeder. See B.N. 1911, 1, and 1910, 200.

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PARROTS—ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.

266.—SWAINSON'S LORIKEET. Blue Mountain Lory.

282.—YELLOW-HEADED CONURE. Jendaya Conure, Jendaya Parrakeet

283.—BLACK-HEADED CONURE. Nanday Conure, Nanday Parrakeet.

292.—QUAKER PARRAKEET. Grey-breasted Parrakeet.

308.—ROSE-RINGED PARRAKEET. African Ring-neck.

313.—BARRABAND'S PARRAKEET. "Greenleek" in Australia.

314.—BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET. Rock Peplar.

316.—CRIMSON-WING PARRAKEET. Red-winged Parrakeet; Bloodwing

318.—MADAGASCAR LOVEBIRD. Grey-headed Lovebird.

319.—PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD. Rosy-faced Lovebird.

321.—RED-FACED LOVEBIRD. Red-headed Lovebird.

326.—MEALY ROSELLA. Pale-headed Parrakeet.

328.—STANLEY PARRAKEET. Yellow-cheeked Parrakeet.

329.—RED-CAPPED PARRAKEET. Pileated Parrakeet, " Blue Parrot " in Australia.

331.—YELLOW-COLLARED PARRAKEET. Yellow-naped Parrakeet; Twenty-eight Parrakeet in Australia.

332.—BAUER'S PARRAKEET. Port Lincoln Parrakeet.

334.—BEAUTIFUL PARRAKEET. Paradise Parrakeet.

338.—RED-RUMPED PARRAKEET. Red-rump, Blood-rump, Blood rumped Parrakeet.

To be continued.

Dark Plumages of Zebra Finches.

By R. Suggitt.

During the summer of 1913 I had three dark Zebra Finches—two hens and one cock; the cock had dark, almost black, ear-coverts. One hen died during the winter 1913-14, and the surviving hen had a black pectoral band. These I turned into an enclosure in 1914, which contained no other Zebra Finches; they reared five young ones, none of them darker than the hen; one of the four was a normal coloured cock.

I joined the army in September 1914, and disposed of most of my birds. Amongst others I sent quite 20 Zebra Finches to a London dealer, and possibly some of these were purchased by our members.

I passed on two pairs to our member Mr. Crow, all normally coloured birds, and last year he asked me to take a pair of dark ones.

These I placed in a cage for some time to make fairly sure of their pairing, and then turned them into an aviary with other Zebra Finches, etc. They reared 3 dark marked hens and a cock; one of these hens had a very broad black pectoral band, a dark head and mantle. The cock had a black rump, and his head was almost black; they were, however, like all these darkly marked birds, very delicate, and both are now dead. One of the hens I passed on to our esteemed Editor*; the other I still have caged, and will send her to anyone wishing to try to breed these dark coloured birds.

We usually attribute albinism to inbreeding and weakness and according to the laws of nature melanism should denote strength and vigour. My experience, however, is the reverse as, not one of these dark birds has been even normally robust

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* I much regret to state that rats took the two pairs of Zebra Finches Mr. Suggitt kindly sent me. The pectoral band of one of the hens was similar to that of a normal cock,—Ed,

With the exception of these dark Zebra Finches, I have taken great care to ensure my breeding birds being unrelated, using rings for identification purposes.

It would be interesting to know whether any of our members have had a similar experience with these birds.

The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

Continued from page 107.

Mannikins: This group of birds is not always the most popular ,perhaps because (in normal times) of their commonness (cheapness and plentitude), and their lethargic demeanour when kept in confined quarters; but in a roomy, naturally planted, garden-aviary, much of this disappears and they become interesting, and are vastly different in appearance, etc., to other *ploccine* groups.

Morevover, they are not by any means prolific breeders in captivity, with one or two exceptions. The following is an approximate list of species classed as Mannikins. Those marked " * " have been bred in captivity, and those marked " † " have already been dealt with (described) in this series.

*Magpie Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides).*
*Bronze Mannikin *(Spermestes cucullata).*
*Rufous-backed Mannikin *(S. nigriceps).*
Tri-coloured Mannikin *(Munia malacca).*
*Black-headed Mannikin *(M. atricapilla).*
Two-coloured Mannikin *(Spermestes bicolor).*
White-headed Mannikin *(Munia maja).*
†*Bib Finch *(Spermestes nana).*
†*Pectoral Finch *(Munia pectoralis).*
†*Chestnut Finch *(M. castaneithorax).*
†*Striated Finch *(Uroloncha striata).*
†*Sharp-tailed Finch *(U. acuticauda).*
†*Yellow-rumped Finch *(Munia flaviprymna).*
†*Spice Finch *(M. punctulata).*
*Bengalese *(M. domestica).*
*Java Sparrow *(M. oryzivora).*

In one or two cases the instances of successful breeding are merely isolated ones, and with those species, not yet successfully bred in captivity in this country, this should be an added incentive in their favour, so as to fill in the gaps in the list of species successfully bred, and to place on record the data gleaned therefrom.

All are species which are easy to acquire and keep in captivity; requiring only ordinary foreign finch treatment to achieve success—sooner or later in a well appointed garden aviary success must come with those species, not as yet bred to intelligent, patient endeavour. Then owing to so many, considering certain species "too common" to write about, the last word has not yet been said even about such species as Magpie, and Bronze Mannikins, and even Zebra Finches; so detailed accounts of the successful keeping and breeding of the freely bred species are not "mere packing," but interesting reading.

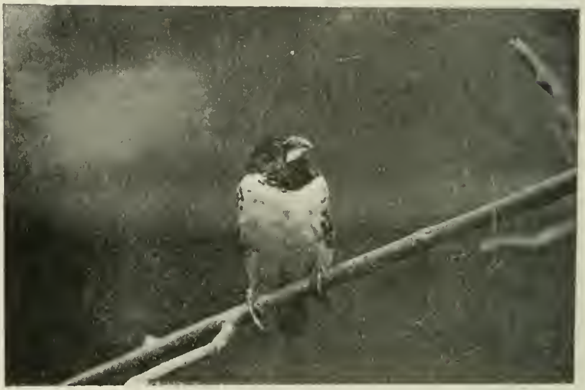
MAGPIE MANNIKIN.—Some give this species the reputation of pugnacity, and undoubtedly such pairs occur, and owing to their formidable beaks are capable of doing much ill; but I must speak of them as I have found them, and my numerous pairs have always acted on the principle of "live and let live"—looking well after themselves, and leaving their neighbours undisturbed to do likewise.

I have found this species the most prolific of all the mannikins, and usually all young hatched out are fully reared. At all times they are very partial to live insects, but when feeding young these are essential.

The general *menu* is millet and canary seed, they are fond of a little paddy rice, as are most of this group, and should get at any rate occasional live insects.

In my aviaries they have favoured a small box of some kind in which to build their spherical nest—I have only once seen one such constructed in a living bush: it was large, spherical, rough and untidy looking exteriorally, and lined with fine grasses and a few feathers.

It has cross-mated and produced hybrids with several other species of mannikins.



photo, E. O. Page.
Bronze × Magpie Mannikin Hybrid.

Natives of Central, Eastern, Western, and North-western Africa.

BRONZE MANNIKIN.—This handsome little species inhabits Western and Equatorial Africa; in normal times it is freely imported and to be cheaply obtained.

The Bronze Mannikins reproduces its kind fairly freely in a garden aviary and also when flying loose in a birdroom, less freely in a cage.

A charming and inoffensive bird in the mixed aviary, yet quite able to take care of itself even against larger species.

Menu at all periods of the year same as preceding species.

RUFOUS-BACKED MANNIKIN.—In my opinion one of the handsomest of the genus *Spermestes.* It is much rarer than either of the preceding species, only appearing on the market in small numbers and at irregular periods.

It has been bred on several occasions in English aviaries, and judging by the results from several pairs I have heard of and observed, also of one pair in my aviaries, should be classed as a prolific species.

Menu throughout the year, as for preceding species

Quick and inoffensive in a mixed series.

Three-coloured or Tri-coloured Mannikin.—Larger than any of the three foregoing species, but a very pleasing bird.

It has not yet been bred in captivity, at least I know of no published record. A few years ago a pair built a spherical nest in a golden privet hedge at the London Zoo; eggs were laid but no young were fully reared. It is rather surprising that this species has not been bred long ago, as in several instances it has cross-mated with other species of mannikins, and young have been successfully reared

It is a reasonable deduction to assume, that if a true pair were kept in every mixed series, the successful rearing of young in a natural garden aviary is a mere matter of time.

Hardy and enduring, but more susceptible to a wet season than the preceding species.

Black-headed Mannikin.—Very common and cheap in normal times; it has been bred once only in captivity in this country, and very little data was published concerning the event, and further attempts should be made to complete our knowledge of the details of their breeding economy.

As all its characteristics, habits, etc., are similar to those of the Tri-coloured form, details need not be repeated.

I have found it hardy and enduring.

Two-coloured Mannikin.—This species is so similar at a first glance in size and plumage to the Bronze Mannikin, that when it does come over it usually gets sold as that species. The only pair I ever possessed were sent to me as Bronze Mannikins, and, unfortunately they were in such a debilitated condition, though in good plumage, that I did not succeed in saving them.

It has not been bred in captivity in this country, though it is possible it has been, as few recognise the two species apart.

The plumage is black and white with steely reflections, and the colour areas are similarly arranged to those of the Bronze Mannikin.

If the species does, at any time come into the hands of any of our members, it should be given careful nursing till well hardened off.

White-headed Mannikin.—This is of a very pleasing appearance, and is similar in habits, characteristics, etc., to the Tri-coloured Mannikin.

I have a remembrance of noting, at some time, a case of their nesting, but have failed to trace any record, and in the absence of such the species must remain on the list of those as yet unbred in captivity.

Bengalese.—These were originated by the Japanese, but how or when past history does not record. There are three forms, viz: the White, the Fawn and White, and the deep Brown and White.

They may be termed a prolific species, though some aviarists do not get much luck with them.

Only one pair should be kept in each aviary, and the young should be removed as soon as able to fend for themselves, as they all crowd into the nest, and most of the subsequent clutches will be spoiled.

This species breeds fairly readily in roomy cages.

Java Sparrow.—A heavily built bird, but one which has a fine appearance and looks well in a large outdoor aviary.

There are two forms, the Grey, and the White; the latter is a Japanese creation, but when it came into being past history does not reveal.

Both forms may be termed prolific breeders, and have produced young both in aviaries and cages. Like the preceding species, it does better in some aviaries than others, quite apart from excellent accommodation and a skilful aviculturist.

The two forms readily interbreed, and the resulting progeny mostly come true to the Grey form, with only a very small percentage of pied or splashed birds. I have found that a crossbred hen (i.e. Grey × White) produces a fairly reliable free breeding strain.

The White breed fairly true—the percentage of ticked birds not being large—this form is a free breeding one.

Sexes are similar in plumage, but their beaks, especially when viewed in profile, are different in shape; that of the hen being distinctly wedge-shaped, with the culmen almost a straight line, while the culmen of the male is distinctly arched, and his beak much stouter at the base than that of his mate.

When given plenty of room (not over crowded) I have found them neither bullying nor pugnacious in a mixed series of birds.

As all the other species listed as mannikins have been already dealt with in this series I am not referring further to them.

To be continued.

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Editorial.

Our Future: A few words at this juncture, when the change of rules re increase of the annual subscription comes into force, will not be out of place.

Bird Notes has from its inception been an honest attempt:

(1) To provide an interesting and practical Journal covering all phases of bird-keeping, both as regards British and Foreign species, and to meet the needs of the tyro as well as the "old-hand."

(2) To mutually help each other in all the difficulties pertaining to bird-keeping, more especially so, as to the breeding of species in captivity (restrained liberty!), by such means as descriptions of aviaries and birds, and how they were treated; records of successes and failures; field notes of species in their native haunts, etc., published in the Club Journal.

This has been our policy right up to the present day, and is *the policy of the present Council and Officers.*

If any section of bird-keeping has been neglected the remedy lies in its own hands, for those concerned have only to send in articles covering the subject wanted, and such will duly appear in the Journal. Moreover, if any feel they cannot write on the subject needed, they have only to inform the Editor, and the ground will be covered in due course.

Through almost insuperable difficulties we have emerged to the present stage, with a membership of which any society may well be proud; but we must not rest upon our laurels—our greatest needs are:

(1) For each individual member to realise, that he or she must have a part in any future that lies before us and its successful realisation.

(2) An increased number of contributors to the Club Journal; the present year will be a difficult one, practically everything has to be re-organised owing to the abnormal times (it is practically a time of re-organisation in every department of human life, whether national or domestic); true, many aviaries are closed and series of birds very depleted, but we have reminiscences, etc., to fall back upon and these will prove of general interest, and, moreover, very helpful to new adherents to our ranks.

(3) Encouraging as our membership is, we greatly need it to be enlarged; we have lost valuable and helpful members in the recent world-war—this is a matter in which all must co-operate; leave it entirely to the Officers and Council and we shall fail, but if all unite for the common purpose, *success is certain.*

Early in 1921 Bird Notes comes of age, and this proud position should find us in a stronger position than at any period of our history, with *all* our difficulties and encumbrances removed. All that is needed to make this absolutely certain is · a patient bearing of the temporary increase of subscription, and all co-operating, somewhat on the lines indicated above. towards the realisation of its aims; also, a virile interest in everything pertaining to the Club's welfare.

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The Richmond Herons.

Reprinted from the "Times" of April 8th, 1919, with our thanks to Editor and Author—cutting per Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.

THEIR HOME AND HABITS.

"The first young Herons of the season are just being hatched in "Richmond Park. It can never fail to be a source of wonderment and "joy that such conspicuous and usually retiring birds can year by year "nest and rear their young successfully in such a public place. The "presence there of kestrels, woodpeckers, cuckoos, and even jays and "nightjars is accepted with pleasure and surprise, but amazement is "unfeigned at a real heronry. Heronries are nowhere common, and are "generally found in inaccessible places; but here is one within seven miles "of St. Paul's Cathedral. Nor are the noises of London absent—the "metallic sounds of electric trains crossing the river bridges at Kew and "Barnes, and the roar of motor-omnibuses.

"Herons, together with Ravens, are the earliest of British birds to "begin nesting operations; and more than a month ago, when the snow "was lying deep on the ground, and bitterly cold winds were sweeping "across the park, some six or eight pairs were adding to the already "ponderous masses of sticks which form their homes from February to "July each year. "Sidmouth Plantation" is the official designation of "their preserve; it lies a few hundred yards within the Richmond gate, "and under the stress of war has been flanked by the wooden huts of the "South African Military Hospital. But the great birds seem to fear no "direct human interference; perhaps they know that a peremptory notice "affixed to the gates of the wood declares that it is only 'open to the public "from May to October.' One wonders if this is evidence of official "solicitude for the Herons' nurseries or for the peace of mind of the few "hen pheasants that may shortly be nesting in the undergrowth. Probably "the latter bird's welfare appeals more strongly to officialdom.

"Of indirect interference, not to say open annoyance, the Herons "had their full share during the years of war. Batteries of anti-aircraft "guns, stationed close to them, fired on many occasions round after round "in the middle of the night. The glare of the searchlights must have "been disconcerting to young and old alike, and if no bombs fell on them "it was not the fault of the Gothas, which once laid their own eggs within "a mile of the heronry. But Herons are stolid British birds; no devilries "of the enemy could move them, and despite the invasion of the air by "observation balloons—nine or ten at a time have been swung overhead all "hours of daylight—they have remained constant to their ancient haunts.

"On a fine Saturday or Sunday afternoon in April thousands of "Londoners will walk and sit within a hundred paces of the nests, but it "is the exception to see any of them look up to where, at the tops of the "still leafless oaks, the male birds are silhouetted against the sky as they "stand croaking hoarse directions to their mates engaged in putting the

" finishing touches to their homes. One visitor has, indeed, been over-
" heard to comment upon the ' number of seagulls ' that were flying round
" the wood; the remark was accepted without demur by others and the
" matter dropped. The difference between the 5ft. span of a Heron's wings
" and that of a little black-headed gull's may be as indiscernible to the
" inexpert as that between a small single-seated aeroplane flying very low
" and a Handley Page droning some 5,000 ft. up.

" It is a grand sight to see the birds with slow and heavy beat of
" wing approaching the park and then dropping lower and lower in spirals
" until, with an unhingeing effect, they release their legs, and stand erect
" upon the the topmost branches of a tree. Their conversation, an inces-
" sant series of croaks, squawks, and noises, can only be likened to the
' barkings of many small dogs. When the young Herons are hatched, and
" are large enough to stand upright in the nests, this noise is redoubled,
" and continues all day and half into the night. It might be thought that
" there was an adequate supply of frogs, small fish, and other dainties in
" the Pen Ponds, but the birds prefer, except very early in the morning, to
" go further afield; there is a regular track followed by the foraging parents
" which leads directly over the chimney-pots of Richmond to the tidal parts
" of the river by Syon House and the meadows of Chiswick. Perhaps
" salt water adds relish to their finds, for the quieter backwaters Hampton
" Court way are not frequented to the same extent. The appetites of the
" young ones must be voracious, for the devoted birds return again, and yet
" again, with some tit-bit until it is practically dark, and are hard at work
" before it is really light next morning.

" When July comes the Herons leave the park, and spend the
" autumn further from London, but at the end of January, no matter how
" wintry the weather, they reappear once more. The heronry must be of
" great antiquity, indeed most heronries are older than local tradition can
" reckon, and probably it has been continuously inhabited from times before
" the enclosure of the park. As there is evidence by the number of unoccu
" pied nests, that it was more populous some few years ago, it is earnestly
" to be hoped that the present generation will encourage the next to remain
" true to the site. One final word of thankfulness. What changes have
" the school authorities wrought in the present-day boy that he makes no
" attempt upon the great blue-green eggs which are reposing in those nests?
" One appreciates the vigilance of the park-keepers, but a country lad would
" plan to emulate the raid against the local heronry so vividly recorded
" among his school-time exploits by the late Captain Selous."

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The Question of Amalgamation.

Once more, we regret to say, this question has been raised, and our contemporary *The Avicultural Magazine* has, we consider, very ill-advisedly brought the matter into public discussion, which, we think, cannot tend to increase good feeling between the Avicultural Society and the Foreign Bird Club.

Again and again over a period of years the Avicultural Society have solicited us to amalgamate with them, and we have always declined, neither have we ever made the slightest advance to them for amalgamation, and it appears to us that the continuous urging against our desire is not the best of form. True in this instance Mr. W. H. Workman, who is one of our members (also an old member of the Avic. Soc.) sent us a letter suggesting that we amalgamate with the Avic. Soc. This letter arrived when May "B.N." was in type, and we wrote Mr Workman to that effect, also stating that we did not consider it a matter for the Journal, but a case for the Council to deal with, and, if called for, take a vote of the members thereupon. However, Mr. Workman also sent his letter to the *Avicultural Magazine*, and it appeared in their current issue, together with an Editorial note, and *gratis copies* of this issue have been sent to myself and other officials of F.B.C., therefore considering the matter had better be settled once for all, we reprint both the Editorial note and Mr. Workman's letter.

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Reprinted from the *Avicultural Magazine*, June, 1919.

Lismore, Windsor,
Belfast.
May 4th, 1919.

"Dear Sir,—I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to *Bird Notes* "for publication, as I thought you might like to insert it in your next issue "along with this letter. For a long time I have had the idea of proposing "an amalgamation of these two kindred societies, and I think it would be "a good thing for both if it could be arranged.—I remain, yours very truly,

W. H. WORKMAN."

[Enclosure.]

"Dear Sir,—I see in your notice that you ask for correspondence "regarding the raising of the annual subscription, and I therefore take "the liberty of making a suggestion that this Society should amalgamate "with the Avicultural Society and form a really powerful union which "will include all the British and Foreign aviculturists; it would then be "possible to issue a much larger and more interesting magazine, with "coloured plates and a greater amount of original reading matter "under one cover. I would suggest, too, that more space should then "be devoted to notes and articles on British and Foreign *wild* birds; trav "ellers doubtless could give us splendid descriptions of a popular nature "of their experiences amongst the birds of the various countries visited "I recall two intensely interesting articles which came out in the early "volumes of the *Avicultural Magazine*—"The Birds of Ecuador," by Mr. "W. Goodfelliw, and "Birds of the Bahamas," by Mr. Bonhote. There "must and will be numbers of people who could write interesting notes "which would be of very great value to our members, but not perhaps "scientific enough for publication in the *Ibis*. Again, since the *Zoologist* "was given up there is a great want of a popular magazine for British bird "notes and descriptions of bird life in this country in general. I know, "of course, that we have that most interesting magazine *British Birds*, but "it again is of a pretty high scientific nature rather after the style of *Ibis*, "and the Editors would not wish to fill up their pages with notes and "articles such as used to appear in the *Zoologist* when in its palmy days.

"Surely in these days of great business amalgamations the Councils "of the Avicultural Society and Foreign Bird Club could meet together "and produce a magnificent scheme for the good of Ornithology in its "widest sense; members then would not mind paying the larger subscrip- "tion, because they know that they would be getting the best value possible "instead of keeping up two Societies, one in opposition to the other. This "I believe to be the ideal plan, but if not acceptable I would take a leaf "from this 'Distressful Country' of mine; here we have a little magazine "called the *Irish Naturalist*, which in spite of party fights does duty as the "official magazine of no less than seven different Natural History Societies. "If this can be done in Ireland, surely in England enough unity could be "obtained amongst naturalists to carry through a scheme on the above "lines.—Yours very truly,

W. H. WORKMAN, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

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"AMALGAMATION."

"The Editor draws attention to the thoughtful and valuable letter "on this subject published elsewhere in this issue. Our correspondent "we know, of many years' standing: negotiations favouring this object "have more than once been on foot. It has been said, and well said, "time after time that there is no opposition between the Avicultural Society "and the Foreign Bird Club. To the man in the street it must indeed "seem amazing that in these days of dear paper, dear illustrations, and "emptying aviaries there should be two Societies, both professing the same "object, both hampered by many difficulties, and by loss of members due "to the War, yet each pursuing its own way—disunited, dissevered, disrupted—as if their aims were poles apart.

"The cost of production is enormous. Those of us who study the "business side of natural history publishing understand only too well why "the coloured illustration is banished from our front page, and the brevier "type from our correspondence column. Only by drastic economy has "it been possible to keep the flag flying: indeed, there are many natural "history journals that have failed to survive the War.

"Under these circumstances we believe that Mr. Workman's letter "will be of the greatest service to zoology. Should the Foreign Bird "Club wish to be reabsorbed into the Avicultural Society—the parent from "which it originally sprung—a great gain, not only to aviculture, but to "ornithology in general, would inevitably ensue.

G. R."

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Mr. R. Suggitt, a member of F.B.C. Council has written as under.

Suggitt's Lane,
Cleethorpes.
June 10th, 1919.

Sir,—I think we should publish both Mr. Workman's letters in the "A.M.," and the Editor's comments thereon in B.N. There are, of course arguments both for and against amalgamation; personally, I am dead against it, but, as a member of the Council I think it is our duty to have the matter fully gone into now, and settled one way or the other.

I think we should ask our Council and the members to express their opinions, not necessarily for publication.

It is, in my opinion, incumbent upon you as Editor to give our members your views on the matter. I, however, most sincerely hope acrimony will not enter any discussion. As the Editor of A.M. says, there is no opposition between the F.B.C. and A.S., at the same time we must guard against B.N becoming a purely technical journal, to the detriment of aviculture and the inexperienced of our members. You may publish both letters if you think fit.

R. SUGGITT,

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Suggitt's Lane,
Cleethorpes.
June 10th, 1919.

Sir,—Adverting to Mr. Workman's letters in the *Avicultural Magazine* for June suggesting the amalgamation of the F. B. Club with the Avicultural Society, and the Editor's article thereon. Bird Notes, I take it, does not claim to be a Technical Journal, but seeks to enlighten and instruct bird keepers generally. Does the *Avicultural Magazine* cover the desires (need) of the majority of our members? I admit the aims of both Societies are similar, are they identical?

Quotng from Mr. Workman's letter: " Since the *Zoologist* was given up, etc.," now do ten per cent. of our members wish to follow the lines of the *Zoologist*? I think not, and if we did I am of the opinion that fifty per cent. of our members would cease to be such.

The Editor of A.M. remarks that amalagamation " would be a great service to zoology," and I am afraid that if amalgamation takes place, in a very few years aviculture for beginners, so far as the amalgamated societies are concerned, will be a thing of the past. Our articles must not be written over the heads of the majority of our members!

R. SUGGITT.

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Sir,—It would be truly a pity for " B.N." and " A.M." to be formed into one Magazine. Each of them has its own character and it would be a vexatious error to unite them.

Gery, 11th Vienne, France. A. DECOUX.
June 17th, 1919.

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THE EDITOR'S VIEWS.

As an expression of opinion appears to be expected from the Editor I must state the case as fully and briefly as I can, this is not easy apart from criticising our contemporary, and this I decline to do.

Some few years ago, the then Editor of the *Avicultural Magazine*, took it upon himself in their Journal to practically question the right of our existence as a separate society, and a reply thereto appeared in the following issue of " B.N.," which we thought and hoped was conclusive and had settled the matter finally. Certainly the responses we received from our members were conclusive in showing us clearly that the majority of our membership had no desire to amalgamate.

Personally, I too, am strongly opposed to amalgamation, and see no reason why we should sacrifice ourselves upon the so-called altars of "general good of aviculture," and "Zoology."

F.B.C. has *all to lose* and nothing to gain from amalgamation; if the day ever comes when we cannot carry on, then the best course is to wind up; a most unlikely contingency!

A Journal on the lines of the late "Zoologist" would mean the loss of more than half our members.

I have said I shall not criticise A.M., neither shall I, but I am compelled to say that a similar Journal, speaking only of the nature of its contents, would also mean the loss of a very large section of our members. Moreover, present conditions urge more strongly in favour of F.B.C. remaining a separate society, than at anytime since it (F.B.C.) came into being.

"Not in opposition to any other Society:" We are not, but there is a very strong opposition to amalgamation. We exist to live and to publish the best Journal, suited to our membership, which our means will allow. This course has been pursued without any idea of opposing any other society. Early in 1921 Bird Notes will "come of age."

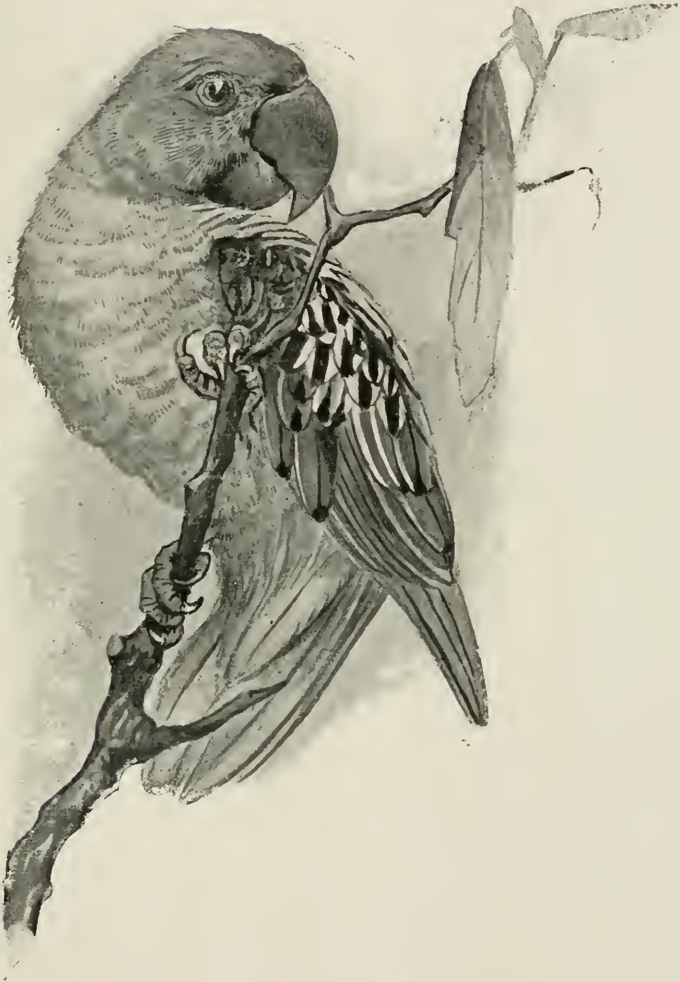
"Difficulties of both Societies:" We mind our own business and are only concerned with our own. The times are abnormal, and in increasing the annual subscription (temporarily) we are only doing what every other Journal, commercial or private, has had to do. The dawn of better days is already breaking, and present difficulties should automatically disappear in the not distant future.

We note the Avicultural Society's willingness "to reabsorb" us: Thanks no, we have no desire for this, the sponge must seek moisture by other means.

Paper and printing is costly, and there is little profit in lengthening out this matter. However, we desire to have the opinions of officers and members upon it, whether for publication or otherwise, and a certain space will be reserved in next issue for that purpose.

I should say that the continual re-currence of this matter caused me to resign from the Avicultural Society in October last, though my name still appears upon their roll.

W.T.P.



From Life by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Great-billed Parrakeet.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notes on the Great-billed Parrakeet.

(*Tanygnathus macrorhynchus*).

By THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK.

Probably few aviculturists have owned this remarkable parrot, though many may be familiar with the specimen at the Zoological Gardens.

I obtained four in the winter of 1913—all cocks as it turned out—though, at first, I thought I had two pairs. The birds, which were in rough plumage, were kept in a warm room and given the usual food. They agreed well together, although two years later the three survivors for a time resented the introduction of a new arrival, although it was a female.

Soon after receiving them I noticed the Great-bills were rather badly infested with tapeworms, of which I succeeded ridding them by doses of cina in the drinking water.

When summer came the birds were turned out, with cut wings, in a grass enclosure, where they did quite well, but, as they had not moulted I took them in again for the winter. About this time I had to move most of my birds into temporary quarters in the Isle of Wight. The following year one of the original four died and was replaced by a young bird which has turned out to be a female. For two seasons I kept the Great-bills in a small outdoor avairy in summer and caged them during the winter. They improved in plumage when out of doors, but always got rough again when taken in. I believe that I should have done better to have left them out altogether, as, except when moulting, they are by no means sensitive to cold if given shelter from rain and wind, Last autumn I decided to try the Great-bills at liberty, as they never looked particularly happy in confinement and were rather stolid and uninteresting. Accordingly the two best plumaged ones (both cocks) were chosen, and one was released in my garden in Hampshire. He stayed well, and very soon I noticed a considerable change in him for the better. His plumage wonderfully improved and from being a grotesque caricature, like a parrot in a comic paper, he became a noble-looking bird, even his large red beak making a handsome finish to his appearance. His head and neck were a brilliant grass-green, the breast and underparts having a yellowish tinge. The feathers of the mantle and rump were edged with lovely pale blue, while the smaller wing feathers were mostly dark blue, the scapulars being beautifully pencilled with buttercup-yellow.

With freedom the Great-bill also began to find his voice—as long as he was caged he had been silent—and what a voice it was! When he was on the wing he made a noise something like a shunting goods' train and a pack of hounds in full cry, with a few amazon squawks thrown in. But this was not all; on a fine morning he would post himself on a branch and indulge in a species of recitation, jigging up and down and throwing himself about as he did so. His oratory can hardly be described as melodious, but it was unrivalled for variety and power, and was, on the whole, most expressive of *joie de vivre*. He would usually begin by shouting " Wurrur! " in a deep, half-human voice and then go on with something which sounded rather like " Kick Macgregor, Kick Macgregor! Kick Macgregor! Teetle, leetle leetle leetle lee! Kik*or*wick! kik*or*wick! kik*or*wick! " after which he would scream and squall and pipe like a little finch with almost endless variations and in every conceivable key. Being without a companion of his own kind, he associated a good deal with a cock Alexandrine Parrakeet, who, though the finest specimen of his kind I have ever seen, looked very dowdy beside his companion. At first he was rather suspicious of the Alexandrine, and warned him off whenever he came too near, but finding that the parrakeet was neighbourly and good-tempered, he soon gave up all demonstrations of hostility. I have found all my Great-bills alike in this respect. They are not vicious birds, but they dislike being approached by strangers of whose character and intentions they know little, and show their annoyance by contracting the pupil of the eye, making a snarling noise and lunging clumsily with their beaks.

The Great-bill was a rapid flyer and could turn and twist on the wing with considerable dexterity; but he was not quite as fast as the Alexandrine, and both were far inferior to the Barraband's Parrakeet, who is as graceful as a swallow and as swift as a homing pigeon. Unfortunately, having no female companion of his own kind (the hen was at that time too ragged to turn out) the Great-bill grew restless and took to wandering further and further afield, until one day he failed to return and was not heard of again.

The second cock was not a success at liberty. The first day I released him he flew straight away and was captured, and returned to me in an exhausted condition. I kept him in an outdoor aviary and did not let him out again until the following March, having previously brought over the two remaining birds which had been wintered in a cold birdroom. Although glad to see his companions he again flew straight away and was brought back by a boy the same night. The gardener very foolishly put him in a cage on the ground in an open summer house, into which a snowstorm blew all night, and next morning the poor bird was in a dying condition, as was not surprising! The surviving pair were unable to fly owing to their wing feathers being much worn, and I let them climb about the trees (which they did not damage), leaving the aviary open; they always returned to it to feed and roost. The summer passed uneventfully until I provided my solitary Blue-faced Lorikeet with a cock Red-collared as a mate. A single lorikeet is not of much account as a fighter, but a pair are deadly, owing to the way they back each other up. Within twenty-four hours they had killed my breeding cock Banded Parrakeet as he was trying to defend his nest, and defeated every other parrakeet at liberty, after which they turned their attention to the Great-bills. The cock's size and huge beak were no defence against the combined onslaught and he was soon hurled to the ground where he might have shared the fate of the Banded, had I not come to the rescue and relegated the Red-collar to solitary confinement.

By the time I left home (July 1st) the hen Great-bill had much improved in plumage and was beginning to fly about. She differs from the cock in her more slender build and smaller beak, and has the lower part of the wing green and not dark blue, as in the male. She fully equals the first cock in her powers of oratory, and it is clear that the remarkable vocal performance of the Great-bill is purely an expression of high spirits, and not confined to the breeding season nor to one sex. The surviving male has not improved quite as rapidly as the hen, but he seems in good health, and I am hoping that an attempt at nesting will be made next year if the birds survive the winter.

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Reminiscences.

By Capt. L. Lovell-Keays, R.A.M.C., F.Z.S.

Peace is declared, and so, like the Roman generals of old, we " turn our swords into plough-shares," and hark back to the piping times of peace. Our Editor and the writer celebrated peace in true old time fashion by having a good dinner, followed by spinning birdy yarns. This article is the result of one or both. One feels rather like the weaver who left his loom long weary months ago, and returns, finding the work is still there, but that his fingers have lost their cunning, and his mind has become slow to follow the shuttle and to pick out the warp from the woof. But even Rome had a beginning, and, after all, the foundations are still there, even if overgrown and mossy. Little remains of the glories of bygone days as regards aviculture, and the past only calls forth sighs and that wonderful thought:—

> Ah! Memory, fond memory, when all things fade we fly to thee.

" Birds!" What memories *the* word recalls! The first pair one ever kept, the anticipations, the dissappointments, the paean of victory one sounded when the first baby birds did at length appear—then the lust of acquisition, the growth and development of one's aviaries. And all the time one was learning, learning, learning. But the writer's experience and knowledge were dearly bought, not only in hard cash, but by remorse and through the narrow aisles of disappointment! Imagine the triumph of rearing twelve Cuban Finches and seven Cordon Bleus in one season, and then, the utter heartbroken disappointment at losing every single bird because they were considered to be " hardy," and, being aviary bred, able to stand our vile English autumn. But such actually happened in the Park Lodge aviaries. And to strike a personal note (for all griefs are personal, whereas the triumphs *may* be shared), I realised I had indeed bought my experience and listened to others when my judgment told me better. How easily most remember only their triumphs, whereas the tragedies, the heart-aches, the losses, are put away from them as unpalatable. But to new-born aviculturists I would say one word, and that is, Don't be a moral coward. If you meet with failure, face it, ponder over it, and don't be content until your reason and judgment have found the cause of the failure. Don't be for ever teaching Nature her job. Don't imagine a bird that lives and revels in the torrid heat of Brazil, can enjoy the dreary darkness of an English November. They may live, and when spring comes return your lack of thought and Spartan treatment by presenting you with a nest of most delightful wee birds. But, believe me, they won't repeat that pleasure for you very often, and the chances are they will one night ' fold up their tents like the Arabs, and silently creep away,'—so softly that they will hardly disturb Charon in his watch on the Styx. Yes, I know what you will say and quote from the authorities and give instances where birds have lived five, ten, fifteen, or even twenty years in an open aviary. Why is it man remembers only the exceptions! ? Just think of it, I had 400-500 birds when I gave up aviculture, but if you can find one hundred alive to-day I will gladly pay the F.B.C. £10 towards wiping out the deficit. Why is it that with no fresh importations breeding results have suddenly dropped almost to nil, and most aviaries are to-day standing practically empty? The question is indeed a pregnant one, and one to inspire the aviculturist " furiously to think." Let us face it and think how we can minimise our losses. It seems at least we ought to look into the book of nature and follow her, removing, needless to say, those causes that maintain the balance twixt creature and creature. With the end of the war we shall begin a new era of bird-keeping. We must, nearly all of us, begin again at the starting post. Some of us with more experience will avoid many of the time-worn paths that lead to desolation and disappointment, such as leaving birds that are a bit " thick " out in the open instead of applying nature's remedy, i.e. dry heat. All this is very instructive, you say, but rather inclined to damp one's enthusiasm. I agree, but surely better that than to kill your enthusiasm by repeated and heart-rending losses. The fact is aviculture is not a thing that " any fool " can pick up by reading a text book that may perhaps only advocate the writer's particular views. If he tries he will, instead of picking up the all necessary knowledge, spend most of his time picking up corpses. The would-be aviculturist must start aviculture with a sound basis of common-sense. Next, if he would succeed, he must study not only the habits of birds, but, what is of infinite more importance—the *habitat*. For instance, he would not expect a humming bird to do in the back yard facing north, nor would he expect the burrowing owl to thrive in a wire cage in the glaring sun. Experience has shown that humming birds are quite easy to keep if you will but keep the temperature even and elevated. If you want to get a severe shock to your acclimatising theories, keep a humming bird. You will soon be disillusioned, and incidentally lose a £50 bird.

These remarks are but the " prolegomena " of some future remarks I hope to make. My deductions are based on exhaustive experiments and observations made under conditions that I can never hope to see repeated, and, further, all made at the same time. While it is true I had some wonderful successes, which may and may not have been purely beginner's luck, I am bound to plead guilty to experiencing grievous failures and losses, which, in the light of more mature experience, and paying less attention to the advice of others, I believe could have been avoided to a very great extent. I do not pretend to have solved every problem of aviculture, neither do I claim to be in any way infallible, but I trust I shall not be blind to past faults and past failures. With this determination before me I am going to try my hand at aviculture again, and hold an inquest on every bird that dies. When I left the country I determined I would never take up birds again, but a visit from our Editor filled me with fresh enthusiasm, and inspired me to write this article, followed in due course by articles on aviculture from a purely practical, if personal, point of view. Next month I hope to begin at the beginning and make more remarks on the home for our feathered pets. We humans don't go to a place and then build our house. We build our house, then go and live in it. Moreover, when we build a house we don't plump it down in a place because it is convenient, but we choose our " site." My first piece of advice and last word is, If you cannot choose a decent site for your aviary, and you contemplate keeping birds, follow Mr. Punch's advice to those about to get married—DON'T! The birds are at your mercy, and your sole right to inflict dreary quarters and impossible surroundings on them is because you " paid for them "—a more mean and despicable excuse for neglecting or failing to afford the best possible circumstances to your avian prisoners, I cannot imagine, unless it be that a man says he " cannot afford better," as though the birds' comfort and happiness were of secondary consideration when compared to his own acquisitiveness and cupidity. Unless you can afford to " do your birds *well*," I say you have no right to " do " them at all.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

Continued from page 139.

Waxbills.—Of this group the six species included in the list given at commencement of this series, three of which I have bred, are all that come within the scope of this article. The waxbills are not a free breeding group either in aviaries or cages, though some of the earliest aviarists indicate the St.

Helena Waxbill as a free breeder; certainly it is the most ready to go to nest in captivity.

The following are the species to be dealt with in this chapter:

Blue-breasted Waxbill *(Estrilda angolensis).*
Gold-breasted Waxbill *(Sporaeginthus subflavus).*
Grey Waxbill *(Estrilda cinerea).*
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *(Sporaeginthus melpodus).*
St. Helena Waxbill *(Estrilda astrilda).*
Sydney Waxbill *(Aegintha temporalis).*

The general remarks as to the above may be included in the mass, as they are so similar in the habits, etc. I have kept all of them and successfully wintered them out of doors over several winters, but for those aviaries which are erected on a sub-soil of clay it is best to house them in early autumn, as if this period proves cold and wet it is actually more trying to them than the winter season. There is another alternative, viz: to so construct the aviary that the birds can easily be driven into the shelter at night time, during the autumn months, and also kept confined there during inclement days. This enforces the importance of the shelter being roomy and well-lighted, and emphasises the need of careful consideration before erection is commenced. Also, this is a *sine qua non* for all aviaries erected in our northern counties.

Some of the species show a decided preference for nesting on the ground, weaving a rough glóbular nest in any convenient tuft of grass; such will be indicated when dealing with the separate species; others build a similar nest in bush, or twiggy branch, mostly at a low elevation, and again others (these more rarely) will make use of any convenient box in which to construct a nest. Hay, coarse and fine grass suffices for nesting material; most of the species make use of a few feathers for lining their nests when these are available, and the thoughtful aviarist will see that a few are lying about; a little moss is also appreciated.

As regards food their main dietary is white and Indian millet seed, and millet sprays, though most of mine pick over the soft-food and sip at the milk-sop, which was in their aviary for other species.

All the above species live together in amity in a roomy aviary, and *all* are most desirable and beautiful inmates of the same.

BLUE-BREASTED WAXBILL.—This species should be housed indoors for the autumn and winter months, or only given the run of the outer flight on sunny genial days. I should, however, say that many, whose aviaries are in a dry sheltered locality, successfully winter it out of doors. In any case they should be given shelter during abnormal periods, whatever the character of the soil may be.

This species has not bred with me, but our member, Dr. M. Amsler, has bred it rather freely and also successfully crossed it with the Cordon Bleu. Still, it cannot be classed as a prolific species; apparently there is no reason why it should not become so.

It is an African species.

GOLD-BREASTED WAXBILL.—This wee mite (not so large as "Jenny Wren") is one of the most beautiful of the waxbill tribe, and also hails from Africa. Once over the hardships of importation it is very hardy and enduring.

It is not a free breeder, yet several aviarists, including the writer, have had young successfully reared in their aviaries. In my case the solitary instance of success was with a nest built in a tuft of grass, on a slight elevation (about 6in.) on the ground of the flight, beneath the spreading branches of a hazel bush. The growing grass was strongly woven together with dry grass and almost impervious to rain. It was lined with fine grass, a little moss and a few feathers. This episode occurred rather late in the season, and no second nest was attempted. Three fine young birds made their exit from the nest, and the one male among them came into full colour the following season, but was not quite so brilliant as his father, but after the following moult I never saw a richer coloured specimen. While the parents were feeding their babies they captured a good many midges, flies, etc., in the aviary and also secured a goodly portion of the mealworms thrown down for the insectivorous species.

I have more than once been deceived into mistaking the wee resplendent male, when perched at the tip of a spray of herbage, for some new flower in the aviary; his gorgeous breast alone stood out, his other portions blending into the surrounding setting of plant life.

GREY WAXBILL.—Not gorgeous, but exceedingly beautiful. It has not bred in my aviaries, or even made an attempt to do so, neither do I think it has been bred in Engish aviaries for many years past. In one or two aviaries it has cross mated with the St. Helena Waxbills, and hybrids have been successfully reared, but it certainly is not a prolific breeder.

ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL.—Another charming wee alien, also from Africa; a quietly coloured and vivacious species. I have found it a little less hardy than either of the foregoing, but it is not a fragile species.

A few aviculturists have bred it in aviaries, and our member, Miss Alderson, has had at least one young bird reared by a pair occupying a roomy cage, but the instances of successful breeding, or even of attempts at same, are not numerous

On one occasion young have been reared in my aviaries, and this was in a nest built in a tuft of grass, in rather an exposed position, but though the season was a wet one and cool withal, so thick and closely woven were the walls of the nest that the interior, after the young bird had flown, showed no signs of the wet having penetrated—the walls of the nest were fully one inch thick. The nest was so cunningly placed as to be very difficult to discover, and so cleverly camouflaged by being woven round the stems of the growing grass that the dried grass, with which the nest was built, was obscured by the living grass, and I only discovered it by accident, by seeing one of the birds dart out as I passed close to it. But the story has already been told in BIRD NOTES, and I will not repeat it at greater length here. Though difficult to state a reason why, the fact remains that they are very shy breeders in captivity; possibly their nervous and highly fidgety temperament may be the cause.

St. Helena Waxbill.—Very like the Grey Waxbill, but with a longer and more pointed tail, and the transverse pencilling of the plumage is very distinct and noticeable.

This is the most freely bred of all the waxbills, yet instances of successful rearing of young are by no means numerous. Odd instances of success have occurred over a long period of years, that of our member, Capt. J. S. Reeve, being, I think, the latest. He had quite a prolific pair, but his successes only covered two seasons. In my aviary some ten years ago a nest was built in a privet bush, and three young were fully reared, and a second nest the same season produced two more young.

It is a hardy and enduring species, at any rate I have found it so.

Sydney Waxbill.—This is an Australian species, and a very beautiful though quietly coloured one too.

It has probably not been given many opportunities to breed in English aviaries of later years, for it was off the market for a good few years, and not many Australian birds leak through since their exportation has been prohibited. Our member, Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, had quite a prolific pair, which did well with her for two years, and many young were successfully reared; about two years ago they were passed on to our member,.Mr. H. E. Bright, who also has had young reared in his aviaries.

A full account of Mrs. Gardiner's success appeared in Bird Notes, Vol. VIII., N.S., page 3.

Mrs. Gardiner kept her birds out of doors all the year round in her Cambridge aviary.

I have only possessed odd males of this species at varying times, and have found them less hardy than its African relatives.

To be continued.

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Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 126).

POLYTELIS PARRAKEETS.

A small Australian genus unfortunately rather rarely imported; they are beautiful birds and, on the whole, hardy. Although they stand close confinement rather better than the Broadtails they need a lot of room for successful breeding, infertility of the males being a common trouble where the birds are kept short of flying exercise. Being much less aggressive towards their own species than the *Platycerci*, a number of pairs may be kept together for the greater part of the year, and even during the breeding season it may not always be necessary to separate them. The usual seed mixture should be provided, together with sprouting oats and soft fruit, such as grapes. A liberal supply of fruit and green-food is specially desirable for newly imported birds which are best kept rather short of hemp and sunflower. Mealworms are often appreciated and are useful during the breeding season and moult.

Barraband's Parrakeet *(Polytelis barrabandi)*.

Quite hardy when acclimatised, and can be wintered out of doors. When newly imported, Barrabands are subject to an incurable form of ophthalmia, which suddenly develops without any apparent cause. Hens are also liable to become suddenly paralysed in the legs, and the extreme difficulty of obtaining this sex is due to the fact that the majority die while yet in Australia. Treatment for this form of paralysis seems to be of no avail, but if the affected bird retains partial use of her feet she may be given her liberty and live happily for a long time, her general health being unaffected, and her wonderful powers of flight unimpaired. Barrabands are usually mastered by any parrakeets which are of a pugnacious disposition, but they are rather bullies to such as are weaker than themselves not actually killing them, but constantly worrying them and driving them about. With birds of other orders they are usually quiet but require watching. Young birds resemble the female in plumage for the first year. Barrabands are charming birds at liberty, their flight being more rapid and graceful than that of any other land bird I know; the plumage of the cock which attains a wonderful gloss and brilliance in freedom, he never quite gets even in the best-kept aviary. Unfortunately, however, Barrabands are not sufficiently powerful biters to be able to defend themselves when attacked by owls, and it is therefore necessary to catch them up as soon as the trees get bare. When a pair of birds are to be released the hen should be caught up one evening and placed in a cage without food, out of sight of her mate. Next morning food should be put on the top of the cock's aviary, and the hen let out a few yards away. When she has had several days in which to learn her way about, the cock may be allowed to join her. On no account should the cock be released first, as the hen, on being let out for the first time, may fly clean away and take him with her.

BLACK-TAILED PARRAKEET *(Polytelis melanura)*.

All that has been said of the Barraband applies equally to the Black-tailed Parrakeet or Rock Pebbler, except that the hens do not seem to be so subject to paralysis, and the species is more amiable towards weaker birds. When acclimatised the Black-tail shows a wonderful fondness for rain, even of the most cold and disagreeable variety. The hen can be easily distinguished by being olive green in those parts of the plumage where the cock is yellow.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S PARRAKEET *(Spathopterus Alexandrae)*.

A rare and beautiful species which resemble the *Polytelis* parrakeets in shape and flight, but not much in habits. It should be fed like the *Polytelis*, but it is not quite so hardy, and requires a well-drained aviary and a snug winter shelter; where these are lacking it should be brought indoors during the cold weather. The cocks seem to take no interest in their young, and exhibit, very often, polygamous tendencies.

Queen Alexandras are easily tamed by "cupboard love," and soon learn to fly to their owner and take food from the hand. The female can be distinguished by her much duller rump and crown and the absence of the spatulate primary. The pink areas of the plumage are equally brilliant in both sexes.

KING PARRAKEET *(Aprosmictus cyanopygius).*

Only one species—the least beautiful—of the genus *Aprosmictus* is at all well known in confinement. The King Parrakeet is essentially an aviary bird, for, although it will drag out an existence of many years in a cage, it is neither happy nor interesting when so kept. The King should be fed on the same seed mixture as a Broadtail, with peanuts and plenty of fruit and green food. Kings are great fruit eaters, and a pair will consume a whole apple in a couple of days. The species is a very hardy one as regards cold, but it is highly sensitive to septic fever infection and is liable to contract tuberculosis in an aviary which has been allowed to become foul through lack of disinfection with salt water. The latter solution must not, however, be applied too strong in an aviary where Kings are kept, or the birds may be poisoned.

In mixed company the King usually proves himself a coward and a bully, where parrakeets are concerned, though not actually a murderer, and harmless with birds of other orders. Kings are quite ready to breed in confinement, and need a good-sized nest-box. Sometimes they lay and incubate on the floor of the aviary. They do fairly well at liberty, but I have never known them succeed in bringing off young. Young birds resemble the female until the first complete moult; the " butterfly " markings on the wing do not always denote a male, but if a green-headed bird shows them very plainly, it is more likely to be a young cock than a hen.

CRIMSON-WINGED PARRAKEET *(Ptistes erythropterus).*

All that has been said of the King as regards diet, disposition, and liability to disease, applies to this bird also, save it is more vicious with parrakeet neighbours, and not subject to tuberculosis. Hemp or sunflower seed is an indispensable part of the food, and without it the birds do not keep their condition. A nest-box with a long spout is generally preferred to one of the ordinary shape.

Crimson-wings would be most satisfactory birds at liberty were it not for their habit of descending chimneys and ventilators, which sooner or later brings every one to an untimely end. The species is quite hardy in an outdoor aviary, but rather subject to chills in a birdroom. Hens lack the black mantle, and have much less red on the wing; young birds resemble the female until the first complete moult. Some aviculturists maintain that male plumage is not assumed for several years, but this is, I consider, quite abnormal, and young males will usually show their sex within a few months of their importation.

Lorikeets *(Trichoglossus)*.

Of the brush-tongued parrots I have had comparatively little experience, and only in recent years have been able to give them a food on which they thrive. They stand cold well when acclimatised, but like a nest-box to roost in. They get on well with their own and nearly allied species, though breeding pairs may have to be separated while nesting; but with all other birds (with the exception of very small ones) they are most spiteful and are able to overpower those many times larger than themselves. They lay at all seasons of the year, but are not troubled with egg-binding. Not infrequently they eat their own eggs, but the vice is not always persisted in. Being active and dirty birds they are not suited to cage life, but are content with quite a small aviary, while enjoying a large one. The sexes are alike, but the hen has a slightly smaller, more rounded, and effeminate head. On first leaving the nest the young have dark beaks, but their colours are almost as brilliant as those of the adult. Lorikeets are easily tamed and do well at liberty when they have learned to regard their owner as a friend. Wild birds are rather bad stayers, and are not to be depended on if given their freedom.

Lorikeets should be plentifully supplied with sweet grapes, of which they are extremely fond.

TANYGNATHUS PARRAKEETS.

These large birds are seen to best advantage in an aviary, as, when kept in cages, they are dull and stolid and often remain in bad plumage. They do rather an undesirable amount of execution on the perches with their powerful beaks, but seldom molest their neighbours, and ignore little birds altogether. They are perfectly hardy when acclimatised, in spite of the hot region they inhabit in a natural state. They should be fed on hemp, sunflower, canary, oats, nuts of all kinds, and fruit. Their voices are loud and unmusical, but they make little use of them, except when at liberty.

MUELLER'S PARRAKEET *(Tanygnathus muelleri).*

The sexes are easily distinguished, the hen having a horn-coloured, instead of a red, beak, and practically no blue in her plumage.

GREAT-BILLED PARRAKEET *(Tanygnathus macrorhyncus).*

The female is more slender than the male, has a smaller beak, and the lower part of the wing is green and not blue, as in the male. My birds always looked rough indoors, but got into fair plumage in an outdoor aviary. They never try to bite through the wire netting of their flight, though they could do so with ease if they tried. An old male I set at liberty soon got into first-rate plumage, and, from being a caricature of a parrot, became a noble looking bird with most beautiful colouring and markings. He also grew very lively, performing quaint antics and uttering the most extraordinary noises. Unfortunately, as nearly all unmated parrots do, he ultimately strayed and was lost, but I can say that he gave me more pleasure during the four months he stayed in my garden than during the four years I had previousy had him in confinement.

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The Norfolk Plover in India.

By H. WHISTLER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

In BIRD NOTES (May, 1916) I described a nest of the Norfolk Plover found in a mango grove; it may be of interest therefore to describe another nest in a different situation.

During the course of an afternoon's collecting on the banks and islands of the river Chenab, near Jhang, on 25th May, 1919, one of my companions produced a fresh egg which I at once identified as that of the Norfolk Plover *(Oedicnemus scolopax);* unfortunately at the time when he found the nest he said nothing, but simply took the egg and gave it to me later on when it was too late for the identity to be verified. However, I learned approximately where it had been found, and chancing to be in the same place on 8th June, went to see whether there was any trace of a pair of these Plovers. It may be explained that in the vicinity many pairs of the Great Stone Plover *(Esacus recurvirostris)* were breeding, and that therefore there was always the chance that the egg found was merely a small egg of that species. The spot where the eggs had been found was a sparse belt of Tamarisk Scrub—thin whippy stems of tamarisk less than the height of a man. These grew on a sandy soil, which was partly covered with a thin deposit of dry alluvial mud deposited during some rise of the river and broken up by the action of wind, sun and passing feet. All round stretched an expanse of dry white sand, dotted here and there with riverain plants. The heat and glare of a summer sun on such ground, with the temperature at 110 in the shade, may be left to the imagination. No sooner had I entered one end of the tamarisk when a Norfolk Plover caught my eye, running quickly in the belt ahead of me. That satisfied me of the identity of the egg in my possession, but I thought it quite probable that in the fortnight which had elapsed the pair might have nested again; so I at one put into execution a plan which has always proved efficacious for the discovery of the eggs of the various birds that breed on these sands. Going hastily up to where the Plover was last seen running I soon found its tracks on the sand and gradually carried them backward, until they coincided with the track of a second bird (which I never saw); a few yards further back both tracks led me to the nest close to where I had entered the belt. A single egg was lying in a bare hollow scratched in the sand at the root of a small plant. By this time the Norfolk Plover had taken wing, and its alarm whistle was sounding ahead, echoed by the very similar call of a pair of *Esacus* which probably also had a nest somewhere in the neighbourhood. The above eggs measured respectively 51.5 by 38.5 and 47 by 37.5 m.m.

Both *Esacus* and *Oedicnemus* are very alike in the field, especially in flight, and seen at such a distance that the difference in size cannot be accurately noted they are very hard to tell apart. Both in their turn with outstretched head and neck, large rounded wings, and conspicuous white bands appear in flight but smaller editions of the Houbara Bustard *(Houbara macqueeni)* which may also be found in the same localities along the river bank in the winter. Indeed in the winter when out hawking I am always very pleased to find and fly either of these plovers as from their flight and appearance they form very valuable " introductions " to the nobler quarry for a new or timid Falcon.

In this portion of the S.W. Punjab the Norfolk Plover appears to be resident, but nowhere numerous or to be found with certainty; away from the river beds they are found on the sandy half desert plains, which stretch for miles in all directions, diversified with patches if thorny scrub or the various dry-looking plants which go to make up the desert flora. *Esacus* on the other hand is a summer visitor for the most part, only a few individuals venturing to stop for the winter here and there, and is never met with away from the river bed where it feeds on the sand banks close to the water's edge. The Houbara Bustard is, of course, a winter visitor only.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

PIGEONS.

TRERONIDAE.

352.—NICOBAR IMPERIAL FRUIT-PIGEON. *Carpophaga insularis.*
Zoo, 1905, the first time in captivity; again in 1906. One young bird had lived ten days in 1904. †Reports.

COLUMBIDAE.

353.—SNOW PIGEON. *Columba leuconota.* **W.T.P.**
1st Newman, 1910, A.S. Medal. A.M. (3) ii. 173.
Abroad. 1st Cornely †Russ; at Tours in 1876. †A.G.B. ii. 253.

354.—GUINEA PIGEON. *C. guinea.* **W.T.P.**
Bred year after year in the Zoo. †A.G.B. ii. 254.

355.—BARE-EYED PIGEON. *C. gymnophthalma.* **W.T.P.**
"Bred freely in the Zoo about 1858" †A.G.B. ii. 255.
Abroad. 1st Delaurier †Russ.

356.—PICAZURO PIGEON. *C. picazuro.* **W.T.P.**
"Quite likely to have been privately bred." A.G.B. ii. 255.

357.—SPLENDID PIGEON. *C. speciosa.*

Hybrids.

SPLENDID PIGEON × SPOT-WINGED PIGEON.
Abroad. Delacourt in France, 1914. See A.M. 1916, 275.

358.—SPOT-WINGED PIGEON. *C. maculosa.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
× Spot-winged (Splendid Pigeon).

359.—WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON. *C. leucocephala.* **W.T.P.**
London Zoo, 1866. †Russ.

Seth Smith, 1902. /A.G.B. ii. 256.

360.—PORTO RICO PIGEON. *C. squamoso.* **W.T.P.**

London Zoo, 1876 †Russ; and again in 1886. †A.G.B. ii. 257.

361.—RUFOUS PIGEON. *C. rufina.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1909.

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362.—CANARIAN PIGEON. *C. laurivora.*

1st St. Quintin, see A.M. v. 74. †A.G.B. ii. 260.

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363.—BOLLE'S PIGEON. *C. bollei.*

Zoo, 1889. A.G.B. ii. 260.

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364.—WHITE-THROATED PIGEON. *C. albigularis.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Newman, 1909. A.S. Medal. See A.M. (3) i. 158, 194.

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365.—BLUE ROCK PIGEON. *C. livia.*

Many domestic varieties.

HYBRIDS.

× Blue Rock (Barbary Dove).

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366.—PASSENGER PIGEON. *Ectopistes migratorius.*

At the Zoo, 1st in 1883; †P.Z.S. 1883, p. 10.

Also bred at the same time in Lord Derby's aviaries. (P.Z.S. 1. c.).

HYBRIDS.

PASSENGER PIGEON ×BARBARY DOVE.

2 specimens in the Zoo. †P.Z.S. 1849, 172.

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PERISTERIDAE.

367.—MARTINICAN DOVE. *Zenaida aurita.* **W.T.P.**

Cresswell, 1897; one young one reared under a Barbary Dove. †A.G.B. ii. 264.

HYBRIDS.

MARTINICAN × PEA-DOVE.

Shore Baily, 1914. See B.N. 1915, 42.

368.—PEA-DOVE. *Z. meridionalis* (late *amabilis*). **W.T.P.**

Thwaites, 1913. (E.H.).

369.—BRONZE-NECKED DOVE. *Z. auriculata.* **W.T.P.**

Cresswell in A.M. iii. 205, reports the incomplete breeding of *Z. maculata* in 1897. This is a synonym of *Z. auriculata.* (E.H.).

I know no record of complete success.

370.—WHITE-WINGED DOVE. *Melopelia leucoptera.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Alderson, 1902. A.S. Medal. See A.M. viii. 395.

371.—TURTLEDOVE. *Turtur turtur.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1905, etc.

Hybrids.

TURTLEDOVE × BARBARY DOVE.

See B.N. 1913. 365. "Fertile hybrids."

TURTLEDOVE × JAVA DOVE.

See B.N. 1. *c. supra.* "Fertile hybrids."

× Turtledove (Half-collared Dove).

372.—MADAGASCAR TURTLEDOVE. *Homopelia picturata.* **W.T.P.**

1st. Newman, 1907. A.S. Medal. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. vi. 79.

373.—ALDABRA TURTLEDOVE. *H. aldabrana.*

Zoo, 1871. See P.Z.S. 1871, p. 692. †A.G.B. ii. 269.

374.—BARBARY DOVE. *Streptopelia risoria.* **W.T.P.**

Commonly bred.

Hybrids.

BARBARY DOVE × BLUE ROCK PIGEON.

Vale. (almost certainly refers to a domestic var. of *C. livia.* E.H.)

BARBARY DOVE × NECKLACE DOVE. W.T.P.

× Barbary Dove (Passenger Pigeon).

× Barbary Dove (Dwarf Turtledove).
× Barbary Dove (Necklace Dove).
× "Java Dove" (Turtledove).

To be continued.

Birds and Peace.

By P. Gosse, M.D., R.A.M.C., etc.

It will be very interesting to see what result, if any, the altered conditions in rural England during the last few years have led to in the comparative increase and decrease of many of our migrant birds, more especially those that arrive in this country in the spring-time to nest with us.

An interesting attempt was made in the illustrated magazine *British Birds* in the years 1913 and 1914 to find out if certain migratory birds were increasing or decreasing in various parts of England, and although the first attempt was far from conclusive owing to the insufficient amount of material, the reports sent in seemed to show a general tendency to a falling off in numbers of some of the species inquired about.

For example the evidence for 1914 showed that the five following species were on the whole decreasing: viz: the land-rail, red-backed shrike, whinchat, red-start and wryneck.

Others appeared to be holding their own, as the spotted flycatcher, chiff-chaff, willow-warbler, white-throat, nightingale, and swallow, while the only species that showed any actual increase was the house-martin; but it must be remembered that this was in comparison with the previous year which was a particularly bad one for house-martins.

Two resident species, the hawfinch and the red-poll, showed signs of a welcome increase.

In the district in the South West of Hampshire, which is well-known to the writer and where he spent a few days in the early part of May, there was a most conspicuous increase of two species, the lesser white-throat, a bird that was before the war rather scarce there, and the goldfinch.

The increase in goldfinches was most striking, there being pairs and small parties in every garden and orchard, and almost rivalling the chaffinches in numbers.

It was certainly delightful to see these lovely little birds wherever one went, and, it will be good news indeed if these birds should prove to be on the increase in other parts of England.

Another bird that has increased largely in this part of Hampshire is the jay. In my garden, where before the war a jay was very seldom seen, I was surprised to see one morning a party of no less than eight. But this was earlier in the spring, and the jays have now retired into the woods though they will visit the gardens later for the fruit and peas which they are so fond of. But the keepers are coming back now, and the jays will soon be in for a bad time, together with their fellow "vermin," the generally innocent and often useful sparrow-hawk and kestrel, both of which have made the most of their unwonted holiday from persecution.

I was told by a friend, who was demobilised just before the close of the shooting season, that he and a friend went out for a long day expecting to get next to nothing, as there was so much "vermin" about, and he had reared no pheasants in coops, nor put down any food, and had no keeper but one old man. To his surprise and delight they got an excellent bag and very strong birds; and this notwithstanding the absence of keepers and the number of "vermin!"

Book Notices and Reviews.

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BRITISH BIRDS: By various authors, edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with numerous half-tone and coloured illustrations. In 18 parts, price 4s. net each. London: Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C., 1.

Part 3. The practical and comprehensive character of the first two parts is well maintained. In this part *Emberiza* is completed, and the following genera fully dealt with: *Calcarius*, *Plectrophenax;* also Families *Aludidae* and *Motacillidae*. There are numerous text figures, a half-tone plate figuring the juvenile plumages of Snow Bunting, Sky-lark, Wood-lark, Richard's Pipit, and Rock Pipit. Also an exquisite coloured plate of *Motacillidae*, figuring the bust, in various plumages, of 6 species. This part is brought up to the date of May 1st, 1919, and is most excellent value for the price charged.

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The Question of Amalgamation.

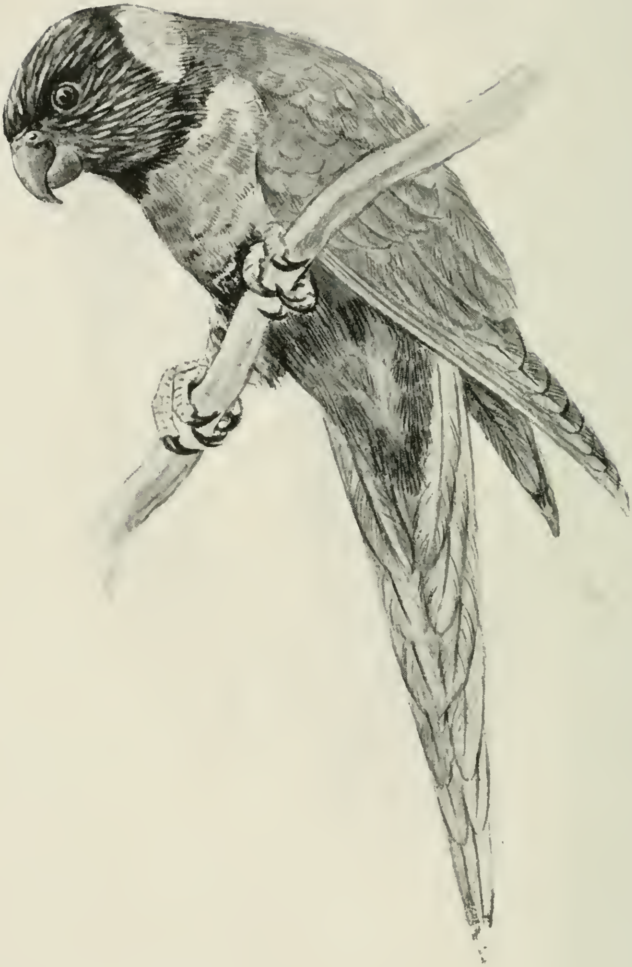
So many of the letters written on this topic, and all have so strong a family likeness that it would be a waste of valuable space to publish same; they indicate clearly that if a poll were taken there would be an overwhelming majority AGAINST AMALGAMATION. Only *one* further letter has been received hoping that union between the two societies may be possible, and this closes the matter so far as this Journal is concerned. Though if any member should send a letter desiring its publication, the same would be inserted, reserving to ourselves the right to make any necessary comment thereupon. —Ed.

The general tenor of the letters received express the following views:—

"So pleased to learn the Club Officials do not favour "amalgamation; it would mean not amalgamation, but "disbanding for F.B.C."

"I am strongly against amalgamation, and consider "this would be fatal to the Club . . . . and that the "character of B.N. should be maintained much as in the "past."

"I am of the opinion that only a very small number "of the F.B.C. favour amalgamation, and that very few will "object to pay the temporary increase of subscription."



From life by Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S.

Swainson's Lorikeet.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Excellent Swainson's Lorikeet.

BY SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

My greatest avicultural successes have been in the breeding of (1) Mice, (2) More Mice, (3) Still More Mice, (4) Zebra Finches, and (5) Swainson's Lorikeets. So many of our members have had joyful experiences with the first three items that I will not attempt to dwell upon my own triumphs with the beautiful and prolific species so well-known in our aviaries. Nor is it necessary to say much about the Zebra Finch, who has so much to say for himself. I pass at once, then, to the fifth item in my list, the Swainson's Lorikeet, or Blue Mountain Lory, and I have pleasure in doing so because I might easily never have made the personal acquaintance of *Trichoglossus Novac-Hollandiac*, and think it probable that many of our members have been warned off from keeping it, as I was, unfortunately, for a very long time. The Swainson's Lorikeet is only one of many birds which have been badly libelled by various writers.

I think it was Mr. Frost who first told me that one could keep the bird in an aviary of growing shrubs without fear of it doing much damage. This proved to be true in my experience, and it is a very great advantage because the drawback to keeping parrakeets is that, beautiful as they are, they have necessarily to be kept amidst arid surroundings because they make short work of vegetation. The Blue Mountain Lory in an aviary of moderate dimensions does so little damage to shrubs that they remain a beautiful background for one of the gayest of birds. To see a pair of Swainson's Lorikeets with their two young gambolling in an aviary of privet and laurel, furnished with a few tree perches to enable them to display themselves, is a sight not easily to be forgotten.

I have said that the Swainson is gay; it is a word which well describes its colouring. The critic who compared it to a Berlin wool mat ought to be bitten by a Macaw out of temper. The colouring is variegated, it is true, but there are not so many bright things in this world that one can afford to despise the blue and green and red and yellow and purple of a Blue Mountain Lory.

The head is striated blue merging into blackish green at the front of the neck, with a band of yellowish-green on the nape. The back, wings, and tail are vivid green, possessing a bright gloss. The breast is crossed by a band of cadmium yellow, blazed with brilliant scarlet vermilion, the amount of the blazing varying greatly in different examples. The males, I think, are usually redder than the females, but I am not sure of this. The belly has blue imposed on scarlet in such a way as to produce an effect of purple. The under tail coverts are yellow, and there is a yellow band under the wings. The tail is somewhat pointed. The beak is vermilion with an orange tip. The eye is black, the iris ringed with bright red. All the colours are brilliant and remain so throughout the year, the moult being almost imperceptible.

In the young the colouring is almost the same as in the adult, but it is less vivid. The babies are just small copies of their handsome parents, and in two matters I like them better. These are that the eye lacks the red ring, which makes their expression much gentler, and that the beak is blackish red.

The habits of the Lorikeet make it an exceedingly attractive feature in a garden aviary. It is exceedingly playful and intelligent, and talks quite plainly in a language of its own, which is really much better, if you come to think of it, than if it talked bits of English which it did not understand. For my part, I would rather hear my Swainson's Lorikeet answer me in his own tongue like a dog when I call his name than I would hear him tell me in English that it was a nice morning when it was raining. The Swainson has been accused of being noisy but, as a matter of fact, it does not often squawk when kept intelligently, and its chatter is exceedingly amusing. It will become, in most cases, very tame, although individuals vary a great deal in this respect. The young play like puppies, rolling each other over and pretending to bite.

As to feeding, nothing could be simpler, in spite of all that has been said on the subject. They thrive perfectly well on milk sop and plenty of green food, particularly chick-weed and lettuce. They like banana and apple, but can live without them. They are, of course, brush-tongued parrots, and were certainly never intended or evolved to live on a seed diet. No doubt the Swainson is exceedingly accommodating in the matter of food, for witness what Mr. A. F. Wiener wrote some years ago:

> " I would advise to feed these birds on a mixture of canary-seed, " oats, millet, Indian corn, hemp-seed, giving daily in addition either a " piece of sponge-cake, a little sweetened boiled rice, a couple of dates " or figs, or some ripe fresh fruit. Some writers on cage-birds have " called Swainson's Lorikeet a very delicate bird. This assertion is " contradicted by the fact that I have kept these birds for years without " difficulty. I presented one bird of this kind to a friend in the autumn " of 1870, and this bird lived over six years in my friend's study, laying " several eggs, although kept singly. Besides canary-seed and maize, this " Blue Mountain Lory was fed on a little sugar, with occasionally a morsel " of raw beef scraped very fine and mixed with scraped carrot. I have " before me the names of four amateurs who have successfully bred this " parrot."

Poor Blue Mountain! How he must have loved the scraped beef and carrot. I expect that what really happened was that he was too gentlemanly to refuse it or that, possibly, what he said about it was misunderstood.

Of course, you may say that milk is an unnatural food for any bird; as a matter of fact milk is an " unnatural " food even for a mammal as soon as it is weaned, and I see no theoretical reason in the world why a Lorikeet, with its peculiar tongue, should not thrive upon such a superbly nutrient fluid and perfect food as we know milk to be. At any rate, Swainson's undoubtedly thrive on it, I should add that I have no doubt that a Swainson's Lorikeet could be kept in good health on a syrup made of "golden syrup" and water with a little biscuit or bread in it, of which they are very fond, with an addition of fruit and green food. In this connection it is on record that a Queensland farmer's wife tamed hundreds of Swainson's by providing sugar and water, and that in their native habitat with eucalyptus within easy reach. Some years ago I kept some Ceram Lories in perfect health on bananas and sponge cakes—but that was before the war!

As my birds are kept with seed-eaters and always have access to seed, it is quite plain that they do not naturally eat seed when they can get other things, for they never appear to touch it.

When I first put a Blue Mountain Lory into an aviary containing a miscellaneous collection of hard-bills and soft-bills, I waited in fear and trembling for the awful results about which I had been warned. In practice, however, I found that the Swainson took not the slightest notice of any other birds; he just ignored their existence, and so I have always found it. I also have the clearest evidence that there would be a battle royal if they were put with parrakeets, for they quarrel with them through a wire partition.

In a mixed aviary they rear their young without troubling about small birds, but I have no doubt that the nesting of small birds suffers through the Lorikeets clambering about.

Next as to breeding. I have found, as others have found, that these birds breed without difficulty, that they are very prolific, and that they give not the slightest trouble. They lay two eggs (it is always two), hatching them in about four weeks, and lead their young out of the nest in about another four. We have not the time to give to precise observation, but this year two eggs were laid—the one just before, and the second just after May 10th. The eggs were known to be hatched by June 10th, and by July 10th, the young had left the barrel in perfect condition. Archibald, as my adult Swainson is called, is usually a good father, but this year he appeared to be so anxious to rear a second family that he began punching the young ones about ten days after they left the nest. The nest, by the way, is a roomy barrel with a little sawdust at the bottom. They were therefore removed from his society and proved to be quite well able to look after themselves. A few days later the lady began to lay again, and the second brood is doubtless now on the way. I say doubtless, because they never disappoint us (Touch wood!). No special food need be given during the breeding time. They just carry on.

Perhaps I may remind the reader that a lady aviculturist, Miss Rosa Little, succeeded in breeding the Swainson's Lorikeet in an aviary cage with a floor area, I think, of less than four feet. I should not myself care to keep such a bird in a cage, even a big one, but in an aviary they are not dirty. I ought to add that they are quite hardy, living in an un-heated aviary all the year round, and show no signs of distress even in the coldest or dampest weather. No doubt they are helped in this because of their comfortable and sensible habit of snuggling into a nest-box at night.

My first Swainson's Lorikeet was a very fine bird which I bought through an advertisement by a member in this Magazine. It was described as a beauty, and so it was. Also, it was thought to be a cock—which it was not. It was a fine large bird and I looked about for a hen. A member kindly supplied one, and we put the birds together. This so disgusted my first acquisition that he, by which I mean she, laid an egg that night to indicate that we had made a slight mistake. After that we called her " Mrs. Sainson " and as soon as we found a proper mate for her—my present Archibald—she went to nest. She was a delightful creature, and took joy in having tea with us and sitting on the ladies' heads. Archibald, however, changed her character for the worse; she was never quite so tame after he came. After two years we had the misfortune to lose her through a growth round the beak which proved to be intractable. We then found another wife for Archibald, but she is a somewhat smaller bird than our original hen. I mention this as a note that the sexes are somewhat difficult to distinguish. I think, however, that the hen has usually a slighter and effeminate-looking head, and that she has rather less scarlet on the breast. Certainly that is so with some pairs which I have closely examined.

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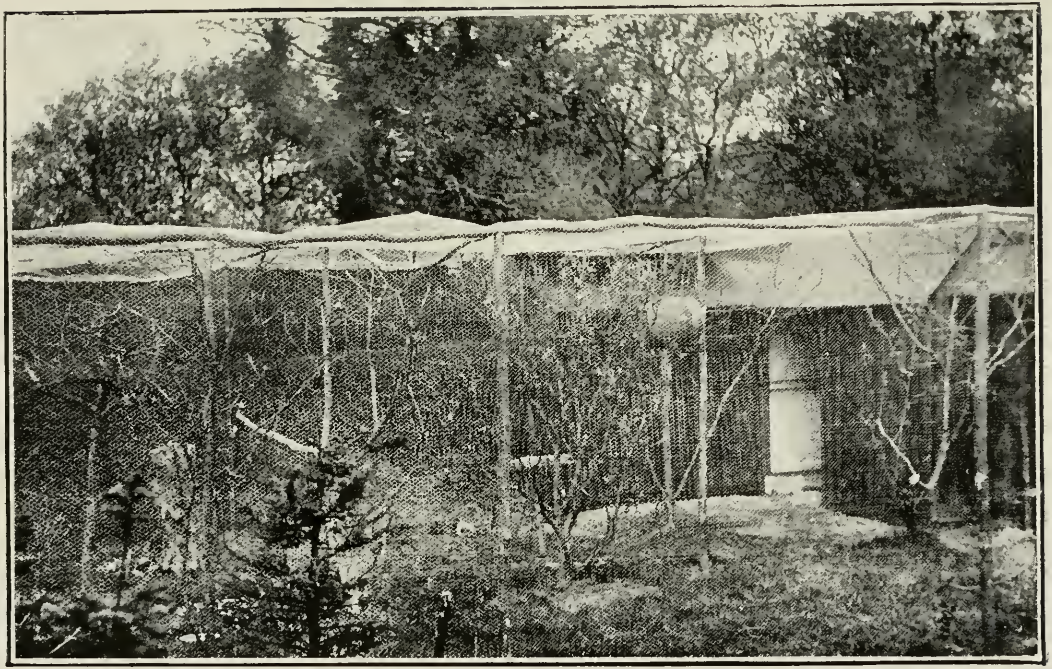
Reminiscences.

By Capt. L. Lovell-Keays, R.A.M.C., F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 155).

Last month was occupied with the Prologue. This month I must plunge *in medias res* and unfold my story.

My first entry into the ranks of aviculturists was due entirely to our Hon. Editor and poor Major Perreau, than whom no keener or more charming aviculturist ever existed. He was one of the bulwarks of aviculture—the *fons et origo* of innumerable interesting, rare, and beautiful new species. His place can never be filled. His birds arrived from India in faultless condition, and proved the fact by repeatedly going to nest almost as soon as they were turned out into the lucky possessor's aviaries. To even dream of Niltavas, Minlas, Brown-backed Robins and Zosterops, to say nothing of the fascinating Yuhinas, fills one with delight, but what of actually possessing them? Can those days, those delights *ever* return? Not unless mealworms spring up out of the ground. I used to buy 7lbs. at a time, and now one cannot buy 7 ounces. Where are all the breeders of these succulent coleoptera? I mean people who write articles telling you how to breed them. Now is the time to make an honest penny, but he must beware of profiteering in the future. They can be bred, for I have done it—not on a commercial scale it is true, but sufficiently freely to keep me always supplied with young larvae for rearing young birds. Soft-bills cannot be kept without mealworms or their equivalent, except when *live* ants' "eggs" are available. But they must be alive. My birds seldom cared for the dried article; true, they gulped them down with the rest of the insectile

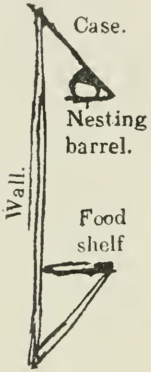


Dr. Lovell-Keays' First Aviary.

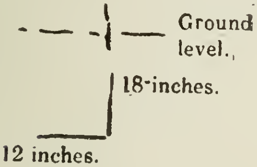
mixture, but with no relish. I have a few birds now, and on my half holiday I go to a famous spot near here where in April I can hear the chiff-chaff; in June the nightingale; and in July the melodious " gurr " of the nightjar. Here I take my tea, and a spade, and bring home a large amount of sand and comparatively few live ants' eggs. I can tell by the tread where the eggs are, and quickly collect a few hundred " eggs." The sand covers the floor of the aviary, and the eggs are an ever acceptable addition to the birds' *menu*. But this is digressing—an incurable habit with me—*Revenons à nos moutons* and let us hear about your first experiences I can hear my gentle reader say, lest the gentle reader remain gentle no longer.

The first aviary I ever built was a fine large one with a fine flight, 39ft. by 30ft. and 8ft. high. From an aviculturist's point of view it was a distinctly humorous effort, but like so many episodes it began in comedy and ended in tragedy. I think it possessed as many faults and drawbacks as a good sized aviary could very well possess. And I found them out alright. I think it was the dampest spot in the whole place; the ground never properly drained itself; in the winter it was mortar, and in the summer, bricks. The grass was dank. Along the south side was a tall hedge which, even if it kept the driving S.W. wind off, kept the sun off just when it was most needed. And *how* many people think of the aspect when they build an aviary? It is a proved fact that sun and disease are as opposed as the poles. Watch how a sickly bird will follow a ray of sunshine as the sun gets up into the heavens. See its plumage get tight, and its breathing get easy as the sun gets power. And yet one sees aviaries so constructed as to exclude every ray of sunshine as though it brought the plague with it instead of driving it hence. Bird fever cannot revel in sunshine any more than a goldfish can on a gravel walk.

Then the shelter; its only advantage was that it possessed an ever open door, and *did* face south. It was a simple hut about 8ft. by 4ft. if I remember aright. About big enough to house half a dozen pairs of budgerigars and a couple of pairs of Brotogerys. Nevertheless, in it were bred innumerable budgerigars, two or three nests of Red-rumps, besides a nest of Madagascars, and three broods of Black-cheeked Lovebirds—all in the summer months. It was in this aviary that the system of eaves was devoped to its fullest extent, and proved a very valuable addition to the aviary. But I soon found that a pair of quarrelsome parrakeets cleared 10 or 12 feet of eaves, and that it was necessary to divide them up with compartments with a vertical board at intervals of 3 or 4 feet. I also proved it was a good plan to put a shelf in the eaves thus:— on which nesting barrels were placed. This formed a very snug shelter for the birds, and being inconspicuous prevented interference on the part of the other inmates. On the wall of the eaves were nailed strong oak boughs, and under the eaves were erected shelves for the birds' food. In this way one constructed a reasonably good aviary out of what seemed a hopeless proposition. But I cannot and do not commend it for anything but a summer aviary. I had a bird bath there, but found the birds preferred to drink the dew off the grass, and, in fact, to bathe in the wet grass. Parrakeets are not great drinkers at the best of times. But this aviary with all its faults bred two medal-winning nests, viz. All Green and Cactus Conures, a fact I attribute to its size, its system of eaves, and hidden nest barrels, and to the fact that the whole of the north end of the aviary was boarded up, the boarding being extended laterally on either side for 10 or 12 feet. This ensured shelter from the North winds and comparative privacy, in fact a virtual shelter with an open roof; and last but not least to the food provided. Parrakeets require a varied diet as well as other birds, but mine never got ripe fruit or any other fancy diet—just the ordinary parrot mixture, as well as an abundance of millet and canary seed.



One more word before I close. The aviary was 8ft. high, and I got the manufacturers to weave me 8ft. netting. The idea was that it would, as it were, wrap round the poles (uprights) and save lacing. But the idea, although good, did not prove altogether a success. It was unwieldy, and sagged very badly. Moreover, one had to sink wire netting into the ground to make it rat-proof, and then lace that to the netting above. At any rate I came to the conclusion that it is far better to have 6ft. netting and carry it from side to side sinking the ends 18in. deep and a foot out, thus:— which reminds me that in one aviary I became possessed of there was a brook that ran through it, led in and out by drain pipes. Over the mouth of the drain pipes was ½in. netting, which collected the leaves and debris, and so caused a partial block, with the result that the water tunnelled its way to the side, first of all, of the drain pipe, and latterly of the masonry in which the drain pipe was afterwards fixed. Rats got in through this adventitious opening, and made short work of the birds. The motto is—"Beware of tapping streams for the aviaries,"—it is almost impossible to exclude rats if you do. But this aviary is another story, and came into my possession much later in my avicultural life. The next aviary after my first parrakeet aviary was what we called the "Cowhouse Aviary." It had the makings of an excellent aviary but possessed certain inherent faults. But as space in Bird Notes is limited, and the Hon. Editor has written for his copy I must draw one more reminiscence to a close, and merely enumerate my deductions from this short tarticle. They are as follow:—



1.—Build your aviaries with a view to the winter and not to the summer. Birds will live *anywhere* from May to October.

2.—Be a sun worshipper, and remember the north sides of hedges never get the sun in the Northern hemisphere.

3.—If you cannot accommodate your birds with decent shelter, and by decent is meant warm, light, airy, and sunny, supply them with eaves.

4.—Keep your food tables dry and sheltered, also be sure and have several, for the bullies of which there are always a few in every aviary will get not only all the tit-bits but most of the bread and butter as well.

5.—To breed parrakeets freely and successfully; plenty of room and a varied diet are necessary.

Verb. sap.

(To be continued).

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 170).

374a.—" JAVA DOVE," a white var. of the preceding.
Commonly bred. Hybrids, see above.*

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375.—HALF-COLLARED TURTLEDOVE. *S. semitorquata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, commonly.

Hybrids.

◆

HALF-COLLARED TURTLEDOVE × TURTLEDOVE. W.T.P.
Zoo, 1911.

× Half-collared Turtledove (Indian Ringdove).

◆

376.—DECEPTIVE TURTLEDOVE. *S. decipiens.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Newman, 1900. A.S. Medal. A.M. (3) i. 120.

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377.—CAPE TURTLEDOVE. *S. capicola.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1906.

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* *Vide page 170.*

378.—VINACEOUS TURTLEDOVE. *S. vinacea.* **W.T.P.**

Abundantly bred in the Zoo. †A.G.B. ii. 271.

Abroad. Berlin Zoo. †Russ.

◆

379.—INDIAN RINGDOVE. *S. douraca.*

HYBRIDS.

INDIAN RINGDOVE × HALF-COLLARED TURTLEDOVE.

Zoo, 1904.

◆

380.—DWARF TURTLEDOVE. *Onopelia humilis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1864, 1900, †A.G.B. ii. 272. 1905, †Report.

◆

381.—NECKLACE DOVE. *Spilopelia tigrina.* **W.T.P.**

Butler. "easily bred" †A.G.B.

Abroad. 1st Karl. †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

NECKLACE DOVE × BARBARY DOVE. W.T.P.
,, ,, × SENEGAL TURTLEDOVE. W.T.P.
× Necklace Dove (Barbary Dove).

◆

382.—SPOTTED TURTLEDOVE. *S. suratensis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1877, 1878. †A.G.B. ii. 274.

◆

383.—SENEGAL TURTLEDOVE. *Stigmatopelia senegalensis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1861-66 and later. †A.G.B. ii. 275. 1912 †Report.

Abroad. 1st Landauer, †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

× Senegal Turtledove (Necklace Dove).

◆

384.—BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE. *Geopelia humeralis*. **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1868 onwards. †A.G.B. ii. 276.

Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ.

◆

385.—PEACERUL DOVE. *G. tranquilla*. **W.T.P.**

Teschemaker, 1908. See B.N. 1908, 183.

Abroad. 1st Blaauw, †Russ.

◆

386.—ZEBRA DOVE. *G. striata*. **W.T.P.**

Cresswell, 1897. See A.M. iii. 205. †A.G.B.

Abroad. 1st Landauer, Russ.

◆

387.—MAUGE'S DOVE. *G. maugaei*. **W.T.P.**

London Zoo †Russ; in 1868, (one), †A.G.B. ii. 277.

◆

388.—DIAMOND DOVE. *G. cuneata*. **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1870 and later. †A.G.B. ii. 278. 1906, 1908. †Report.

Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ.

◆

389.—SCALY DOVE. *Scardafella squamosa*. **W.T.P.**

1st, Seth Smith, 1904. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. ii. 278.

Zoo, 1912, the first time there. †Report.

Abroad. 1st, Russ †Russ.

390.—PICUI DOVE. *Columbula picui.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1906.

◆

391.—PASSERINE DOVE. *Chamaepelia passerina.* **W.T.P.**
Willford, 1909. See B.N. 1909, 228.
Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

◆

392.—DWARF GROUND-DOVE. *C. minuta.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Teschemaker. A.S. Medal, 1908. See A.M. (2), vi. 257, and B.N. 1908, 128.

◆

393.—TALPACOTI DOVE. *C. talpacoti.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1868 and later; Castle Sloane, 1903. 1904, †A.G.B. ii. 280.
Abroad. 1st, Lasdauer, †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

◆

394.—GEOFFROY'S DOVE. *Peristera geoffroyi.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1876 and later. †A.G.B. ii. 281.

◆

395.—CAPE DOVE. *Oena capensis.* **W.T.P.**
An account in B.N. 1915, 223 (Bright). To this there is an editorial note, " it has been a long period since any account of successful reproduction has been published."
Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ. " easily bred " †Russ.

◆

396.—TAMBOURINE DOVE. *Tympanistria tympanistria.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Butler, 1906. A.S. Medal. See A.M. n.s. iv. 307.

◆

397.—EMERALD DOVE. *Chalcopelia afra.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1886, 1888. †A.G.B. ii. 284.
Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ.

◆

397a.—GREEN-SPOTTED DOVE. *C. chalcospilos.* (included in the preceding in the Hand List).
Abroad. In France, †Russ.

◆

To be continued.

Some Notes on Keeping Parrakeets.

By The Marquis of Tavistock.

(Continued from page 164).

CONURES.

I have never been what a dealer once described as a "strong buyer of Conures," and therefore only feel qualified to refer to this family of parrakeets in a brief and general way. In my own opinion there are only three species whose beauty compensates for the disagreeable qualities characteristic of the genus, and I have never been fortunate enough to obtain them. Conures are very noisy, very destructive to woodwork, and very vicious with other birds, though some consent to live in amity with their own and allied species. On the other hand, to give them their due, Conures are lively, amusing, and easy to keep, and breed in outdoor aviaries. They do fairly well in close confinement, and become much attached to their owners, showing, in some cases, a fair aptitude for talking. When kept in cages they should have very little hemp or sunflower seed and plenty of fruit to eat and branches to gnaw, otherwise they are subject to liver disease and feather-plucking. They are great bathers.

The sexes are usually very difficult to distinguish.

Quaker Parrakeet *(Myopsittacus monachus).*

Like the conures, the Quaker parrakeet is noisy, vicious with all but its own species, and very destructive, being able to bite through wire netting with ease. It is hardy and will stand any amount of cold, but generally does badly if continually caged. As most aviculturists know, it is the only parrot which builds a nest of sticks. Quakers have been bred at liberty in this country, but as a rule they are not to be recommended for turning out, as they do a lot of mischief to the garden, and generally stray after staying well for some months. I know of no method of distinguishing the sexes,

COCKATIEL *(Calopsittacus novae-hollandiæ).*

The Cockatiel is well known in captivity, being a favourite on account of its extreme hardiness and readiness to breed, even in a small aviary. It will also do well in a cage, and makes a nice pet, as it is not unpleasantly noisy, and sometimes learns to say a few words. It is generally quiet in mixed company, but breeding pairs must be kept separate when nesting. Both sexes incubate.

Cockatiels are useless for turning out at liberty as they are powerful fliers, migratory, and practically devoid of any homing instinct. The male may be distinguished by the primrose colouring on the head, both sexes having a reddish cheek patch. The young much resemble the female.

BUDGERIGAR *(Melopsittacus undulatus).*

So much has been written about this well-known bird that it seems almost superfluous to add to existing litertature dealing with its management and breeding. Budgerigars can stand a lot of cold when in really good condition, but require warmth if in poor feather. The food should consist of canary, millet, oats, and grass—particularly seeding grass. The birds do not bathe, but enjoy rolling in long wet turf; they will breed in quite a small aviary or even in a big cage, but it is cruel to keep them altogether in a small cage where they cannot use their wings, such treatment being productive of disease of the respiratory organs. Budgerigars are fairly amiable in mixed company, but many individuals are vicious with finches. They like the society of their own species, but single hens must never be left with breeding pairs as they are very apt to kill the young. The sexes may be distinguished, when in breeding condition, by the colour of the bare skin round the nostrils, that of the male being blue, and that of the female dark brown. Budgerigars will breed at all times of the year, but it is a wise plan to give them a rest in winter by taking away the nest-boxes. Four colour varieties of the Budgerigar are known in captivity, green, olive, yellow, and blue. The blues are very lovely, and at present, by reason of their scarcity, command a high price. Budgerigars are very destructive to growing shrubs.

There is one instance on record of Budgerigars permanently establishing themselves at liberty, but as a rule they are a failure, the majority migrating in autumn, while the survivors are soon devoured by owls. There is, however, no reason why Budgerigars should not be kept at liberty from the end of April to the beginning of September, and the little birds are so cheap and prolific, and so lovely to watch in a state of freedom that anyone with suitable grounds is quite justified in making an experiment with them.

PARROTLETS.

Two species or allied races of these little birds are fairly freely imported. They require warmth when newly arrived, but can often be wintered successfully out-of-doors after being hardened off. The food should consist of canary, millet, hemp, oats, and moistened bread or sponge cake. Parrotlets are fairly willing to lay in captivity, but are nothing like such free breeders as Budgerigars; they do not require much room, but will not thrive in very small cages where no opportunity is given them of resting. They are moderately quiet with other birds, but are given to fighting murderously among themselves, and must on no account be overcrowded. If it is necessary to keep a number together in a confined space, it is a wise precaution to separate the sexes, as this tends to discourage fighting. If allowed full liberty Parrotlets should be treated like budgerigars; they are fair stayers but not free breeders.

Blue-winged Parrotlet *(Psittacula passerina).*

Male has a blue rump and secondaries; female entirely green. I rather think the young male has no blue on first leaving the nest, but very soon acquires it.

Guiana Parrotlet *(Psittacula guianensis).*

Differs from the above in thte male having a green rump, and the female a yellowish face.

LOVEBIRDS.

Four species are commonly imported, the others being very rare in confinement. The food should consist of canary, millet, and hemp, with green-food if they will eat it. Lovebirds line their nests with strips of soft bark, straw, etc. They will nest readily in very small aviaries and flight cages, but pine away in small cages, where they are not allowed to nest.

PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD *(Agapornis roseicollis)*.

A sprightly and beautiful bird, prolific and hardy, but noisy for its size, and very vicious in mixed company. Breeding pairs must also be kept separate from one another. Peach-faces will nest in a cage a few feet square, but if kept too short of exercise are apt to be infertile and take to feather-plucking. They should be supplied with fresh groundsel when rearing young, but as a rule refuse green food at other times. The sexes are much alike, but the hen is generally a trifle less brilliantly coloured, has a smaller " blaze," and the green cap comes down lower over the eye

RED-FACED LOVEBIRD *(Agapornis pullaria)*.

Much resembles the peach-face in disposition, but is more sensitive to cold and is far less ready to breed. It is generally delicate when first imported. The cock has black feathers underneath the wing, and usually a much brighter red face than the hen.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD *(Agapornis nigrigenis)*.

A hardy and amusing little bird resembling the budgerigar in disposition in almost every respect. It is a very free breeder, but the sexes are indistinguishable. The Black-cheeked Lovebird nests freely at liberty, but the majority migrate in late August and September.

MADAGASCAR LOVEBIRD *(Agapornis cana)*.

Has often been wintered out of doors, but is liable to contract incurable lung trouble if left out in bad weather. The Madagascar is much more quarrelsome than the Black-cheek, but not so bad as the Peach-face. It breeds freely in confinement and at liberty, but in a state of freedom is very liable to become paralysed in the legs; why, I cannot imagine, as I have never known it to be similarly affected in captivity. The male has a grey head and can be distinguished from the female almost from the time of leaving the nest, the female's head being green.

Birds and Peace.

By Capt. J. S. Reeve, G.G.

Dr. Gosse's article under above heading leads me to think that a few notes on my own experience may be of interest to our readers. Firstly, with reference to those he has mentioned I am inclined to think that the Landrail has decreased here (Leadenham, Lincs.) of late years and this year I have not heard of one at all; the Whinchat on the other hand has, I believe, become more prevalent, for I have known of at least six nests, a fact I was never aware of in pre-war times: the Redstart has always been extremely rare and the Wryneck *non est*.

The Red-backed Shrike was plentiful where I was soldiering throughout the war *in Surrey*. It has seemed to me that I have never seen so many Spotted Flycatchers, or found so many nests of them as this year. Chiffchaffs are fairly plentiful, but not to be compared with the Willow Wrens and Whitethroats, which swarm. The Nightingale is holding its own ; Swallows fairly so, and Martins, as Dr. Gosse says, are on the increase. The Hawfinch, though little in evidence, breeds here, probably every year; the Redpoll I have not observed since the war, but it nested here about three years ago. The Goldfinch holds its own but nothing approaching Dr. Gosse's experience; the Chaffinch is, I believe, the commonest bird in the country! Great Tits are very numerous and Nuthatches holding their own well.

With reference to the Jay, in Surrey they swarmed. Until about 10 years ago such a bird was not seen here except in isolated cases which were soon cured by the keepers! Before the war, and still more during it, they have become comparatively common and established themselves as a nesting species. The war has noticeably increased the stock of Crows and Magpies, several nests of each being found and destroyed: another bird that has very much increased of late years is the Little Owl; I have myself seen six nests this season and I dare say there are 30 pairs in the neighbourhood. Kestrels hold their own, for within bounds they are useful members of society, but I can hardly agree to let off the Sparrow-hawk as " generally innocent and often useful!"

Cuckoos were as plentiful here as ever I have known them. The Great Creasted Grebe appears to be a species on the increase where there are waters spacious enough to attract it. In conclusion I should say I have heard at least three Quails this season and flushed one.

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The Birds of a Surrey Small Holding,

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

While in these notes I shall write principally of the present year, my observations cover the last three years, and while all episodes relate to this year, the demeanour of the birds so referred to covers three years' observations.

By way of digression I will briefly refer to the point of increase of certain species referred to by Dr. Gosse in " Birds and Peace " in last issue of *Bird Notes*.

Goldfinches have been much more plentiful than in any of preceding years (1916, 7 and 8). Till recently they have been distributed among near-by orchards, nesting and rearing their young, but since mid-July small flocks of from six to twenty have been daily visitors to my vegetable garden, going and coming at intervals throughout the day, consisting of greypates and adult birds. More particularly have they been in evidence on the patch of rough ground given up to chicken raising; here thistle heads, wild cornflowers, etc. abound, and a pretty sight indeed it has been to see the various small family parties, I believe, feeding thereupon.

Jays, Owls (three species) and Hawks have also much increased

Jays have not been observed on the holding itself, though occasionally stray ones have been observed upon the fences, but in a belt of trees bordering an adjoining meadow, there one not only hears their pleasant garrulousness, but sees glimpses of lovely blue as they disport amid the branches—so far they have left my peas, etc. alone, as also have the Hawfinches, who are also numerous in the district.

I should also say that at the bottom of the meadow above referred to runs a small river, with the belt of trees beyond; here one gets glimpses of the lovely hues of a Kingfisher, who frequents the riverbanks; possibly I ought to write in the plural, but as I have only observed one on any occasion I have not so written.

Turtle Dove *(Turtur turtur)*.—Of these really beautiful birds as many as a dozen may often be seen feeding among my poultry at one and same time, and there are few hours in the day when they are entirely absent I have caught two pairs, which now adorn my large aviary.

Wood Pigeons are less numerous and only one has been seen on the holding, but occasionally two (pair?) have been seen feeding in the adjoining meadow.

I may interpolate here, that in the surrounding meadow Pheasants, Partridges, Lapwings, Rooks and Crows, are very numerous at various times during the year, especially in the early mornings and evenings.

This is quite a Cuckoo district, and, welcome as their pleasant call is in the early spring, it becomes monotonous and disturbing a little later. They are frequently to be seen and heard (usually several at the same time) in the early morning, again at noon, and the whole of the evening ... quite late. I heard its voice for the last time this year on the evening of July 17th.

The Chaffinch is, perhaps, the most numerous species, and these are as common, if not more so, than *Passer domesticus*.

The Lesser Redpoll has been very numerous, quite flocks of them, and they have bred in the trees adjoining my holding, and also in a very tall conifer in the front of the house.

The Linnet also is to be seen in fairly large flocks and very beautiful they look, too, foraging amid the vegetables, as they display the lovely rose-coloured patches on head and breast.

Blackbirds and Thrushes abound and breed everywhere on and around the holding.

The Greenfinches breed in almost every garden, and on my holding and also the house garden they favour a high nest site.

Another welcome visitor, and rather a rare one, is the Blackcap. I have only seen them singly on the holding. During the whole of July and for the first week of this month one has visited the holding and charmed me with his lovely song, always from amid the raspberry canes. The raspberries were all gathered last week, and I have neither seen nor heard him for the past three days.

The glory of the holding and the adjoining meadows is the lark—all the season their song has been entrancing (silent now), six or more often pouring out their sweet melody at the same time. During the past three years I have observed *Alauda arvensis* closely and have noted certain facts which were new to me. In the adjoining meadow, quite close to my fence, a pair nested in 1916 and each succeeding year since.

I noted that prior to the hatching of the young the male bird always poured out his song while soaring, and I have not observed him doing so from any other position during that period.

When, from obvious signs, there have been young in the nest, he has not only sung while soaring, but also frequently from the top of my fence, in almost a direct line with the nest, and while so engaged his attitudinising was exactly similar to that of a captive lark in the low-front of his cage.

Again, when the young have begun to fly, and the family party to wander a little—I have frequently watched the family party amid my cabbages, foraging on the ground—the male frequently poured out his song while prancing about around and among his wife and little ones, and while so engaged his movements were exactly similar to those of the captive bird in its cage.

Alas! for the past week or a little more they have been silent.

Jenny Wren is, of course, everywhere and her nest has been found on the holding and in the house garden on several occasions.

Tits, too, of several species—Blue, and Great are commonest—are numerous. In 1917 a pair of Great Tits nested in a drain pipe (out of use) leaning casually against a shed front; the top of the pipe was quite open, and the sitting bird not more than nine inches down the pipe, and quite unprotected in any way from the weather or vermin. Rats are very numerous, and cats frequently pass over the ground, yet nine young made a successful exit from the nest. I was able to examine them daily and the parent birds did not appear to resent my presence.

Bullfinches, I think, must be on the decrease in this district—previous years I have seen them frequently and in the autumn small flocks of them; this year I have only seen a single specimen.

Chiff-chaffs, Williow Warblers, Greater and Lesser White-throats have been very numerous, and, I should say were on the increase.

The familar Robin, of course, abounds; the Garden Warbler is only occasionally seen; the Tree-Creeper is frequently seen, but only singly.

Spotted Flycatchers are also increasing, and are quite numerous; they have nested both on the holding and in the house garden.

The Accentor, too, is very numerous, sweet, quaint. "Shuffle-wing"—their nests have been found in the hedge-bottoms of the holding and house garden, and I should say from 20 to 50 are about the latter place daily and more in evidence in the autumn and winter than other times, but during the spring and summer they are to be seen numerously, foraging on the lawn and in the pheasant runs.

Every house with eaves has its nest or nests of House Martins, and they are very familiar birds of the district and quite numerous. Evidently they are on the increase too. In the fruit trees they usually spend the first two days following their exit from the nest on the top branches, and it is most interesting to watch the parent birds wheeling about in the air above the tree and then feeding their progeny with their captures.

the parent birds wheeling about in the air above the tree, and then feeding their progeny with their captures.

The Starling, too, is very numerous, and in the fall they assemble in quite large flocks, but I must bring this meandering to an abrupt conclusion, and defer other notes to some future occasion.

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Editorial.

ZOO NOTES: The July *Report on the Additions to the Menagerie* tabulates quite extensive additions to the order AVES., including one species (Pere David's Babbler—*Pterorhinus davidi*). The additions include: —

1 Ross's Plantain-Eater *(Musophaga rossae).*
1 Bare-faced Fruit-Pigeon *(Vinago calva).*
2 Grant's Francolins *(Francolinus granti).*
2 Greenish Hangnests *(Pseudoleistes virescens).*
and a number of *Ploceidae* and *Fringillidae.*

The following are reported to have bred (reared young) in the Menagerie: —

3 Pileated Song-Sparrows *(Zonotrichia pileata).*
2 Crested Pigeons *(Ocyphaps lophotes).*
1 Brush Bronze-winged Pigeon *(Phaps elegans).*
1 African Palm Dove *(Turtur senegalensis).*
1 Barred Dove *(Geopelia striata).*
1 Buckley's Ground Dove *(Chamaepelia buckleyi).*
6 Carolina Ducks *(Lampronessa sponsa).*
5 Spot-billed Ducks *(Anas poecilorhyncha).*
1 Chestnut-breasted Teal *(Nettium castaneum).*
3 Ruddy-Sheldrakes *(Casarca casarca).*
5 Eider Ducks *(Somateria mollissima)*—Hatched from Eggs,

NESTING NOTES: Lord Tavistock reports a very unlucky breeding season—lots of eggs, and a good many young, but very few reared. The Stanley Parrakeets have again successfully reared young.

Mr. T. Hebb, of Luton, writes:—I have had bad luck this year, as I lost my young Rosellas, and also young Red-rumps, the former, I think, through the boy giving them groundsel that had begun to decay; the Red-rumps' barrel fell down one cold night, and they were all dead when I found them next morning. Neither of these pairs have gone to nest since. A good number of young Budgerigars have been successfully reared, but only two Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and no Peach-face Lovebirds so far.

Mr. H. Bright, of Cressington Park, is moving his aviaries this year, owing to a change of residence, and though nests and eggs have been very numerous this season, not many young birds have been reared, it being impossible to avoid disturbing them to some extent; and consequently the season has been less productive than usual with him.

The following species have young on the wing:—

Long-tailed Grassfinch *(Poephila acuticauda).*
Zebra Finch *(Taeniopygia castanotis).*
Masked Dove *(Aena capensis).*
Green Cardinal *(Gubernatrix cristata).*
Pope Cardinal *(Paroaria dominica).*
Diamond Dove *(Geopelia cuneata).*

Rather a poor season, but there are more young in the nests, and a pair of Red-headed Gouldian Finches are due to hatch.

The Editor would be greatly obliged if other members would send in records and articles.

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Book Notices and Reviews.

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AVICULTURE: This interesting and very practical quarterly Journal is devoted principally to poultry, though no branch of aviculture is entirely neglected. Three parts have been issued. It is free to members, and 1½d. post free to the public.—B.S.A., 68, Torrington Square, London: W.C.

Part II. contains articles on: Depluming Sabies (F. V. Theobald, M.A., F.E.S., F.B.S.A.); Experiments in Incubation (G. H. Lamson); Plea for Teaching of Poultry Keeping in Elementary Schools (B. G. Abel, F.R.H.S., A.B.S.A.); Black in Fowls (The Editor); Colour in Birds (W. P. Pycraft); Bantams for Profit (J. F. Entwisle, F.B.S.A.); Ind. Runner Ducks (J. W. Walton, F.B.S.A.); Amaduvade Waxbill (W. T. Page, F.Z.S., F.B.S.A.); Treat. of Crop-bound Fowls (W. M. Broomhead, F.B.S.A.); Acquired High Fecundity (O. Smart); Some Notes on Geese (F. W. Smalley, F.Z.S., F.B.S.A.); The Common Round (T. C. Solomonon, J.P., F.B.S.A.); Turkey Farming as a Business (E. J. F. Davies, F.B.S.A., A.B.W.S.); Soc. Intelligence; Adverts., etc.

Part III. contains: Successful Examination Work (Editor); Aspergillosis (W. A. King, F.R.C.V.S., etc.); Some Notes on Ducks (F. W. Smalley, M.B.O.U., etc.); Cult of Bird-Keeping (W. T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.); Notes on the Red-cheeked Bulbul (Marquis of Tavistock); Coccidiosis in Poultry (F.V. Theobald, M.A., etc.); Determination of Sex and Colour (Rev. T. C. Wild, B.A., F.B.S.A.); Dead in Shell Problem (H. P. Evans, F.B.S.A.); Nitrogenous Equilibrium (W. Hooley, F.B.S.A., etc.); Eye versus Head in Poultry Feeding (W. Powell-Evans, F.B.S.A.); Good Birds and Naughty, Stomach Tests (Ex. *Daily Mail*); Society Intelligence; Flightless Birds and their Lessons, E. J. F. Davies, F.B.S.A., etc.); Value of Garden Waste; Some Reminiscences of a Poultry Enthusiast (N. Sedgwick, F.B.S.A.); Balanced Rations (W. W. Broomhead, F.B.S.A.); Adverts.—Editor, Rev. J. N. Wynne Williams, B.A., F.B.S.A., A.B.W.S.

We commend this excellent little Journal to our readers

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF AVICULTURE.

68, Torrington Square, London, W.C.,

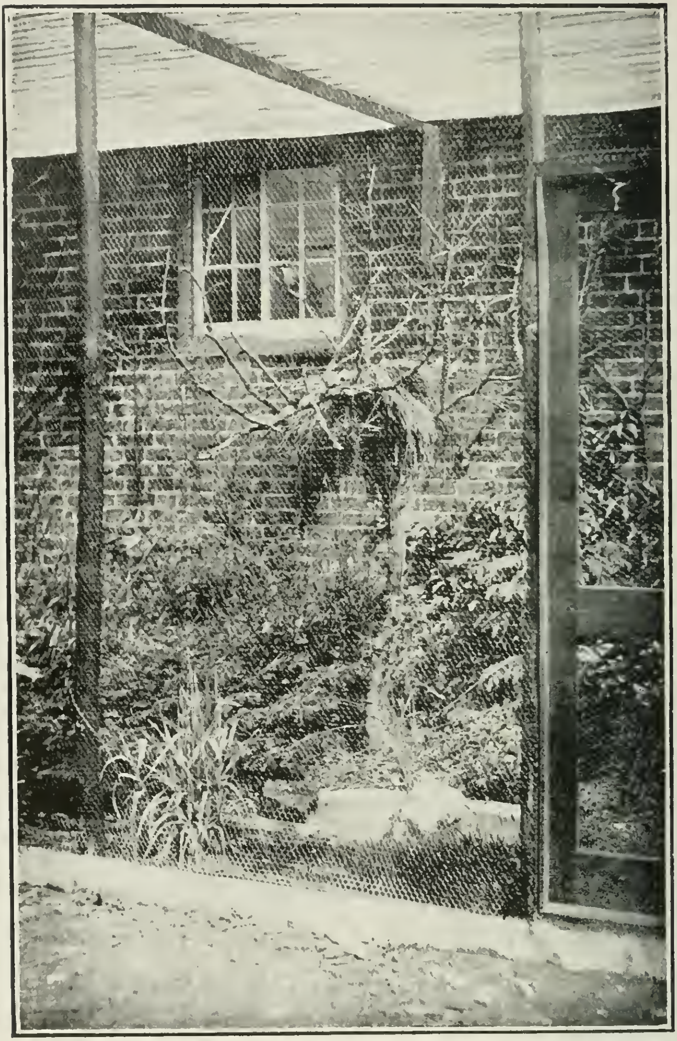
Awards diplomas to successful candidates qualifying by examination, and distinctive hoods are conferred. The designations of Society may also be employed. Aviculturists of repute may apply for admission, in which case the examination need not be taken. A quarterly journal is published, and a circulating library is available for members' use.

E. J. Francis Davies, F.B.S.A., A.B.W.S..
Hon. General Secretary.

◆

AN IMPORTANT CONSIGNMENT.

Just on point of going to press we learn of a large consignment of animals and birds for the London dealer, Mr. J. Hamlyn. The birds include rare and uncommon Flycatchers, Fruitsuckers, Finches, Mynahs, Crows, etc., and a good crowd of the commoner species. Some of those landed are very beautiful and brightly plumaged species. We regret also to hear of many rarities lost *en route.* We should be glad if some member who has seen the birds would send us notes of same.—Ed.



Dr. Lovell-Keays' Cow-house Aviary.

Fig. I.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

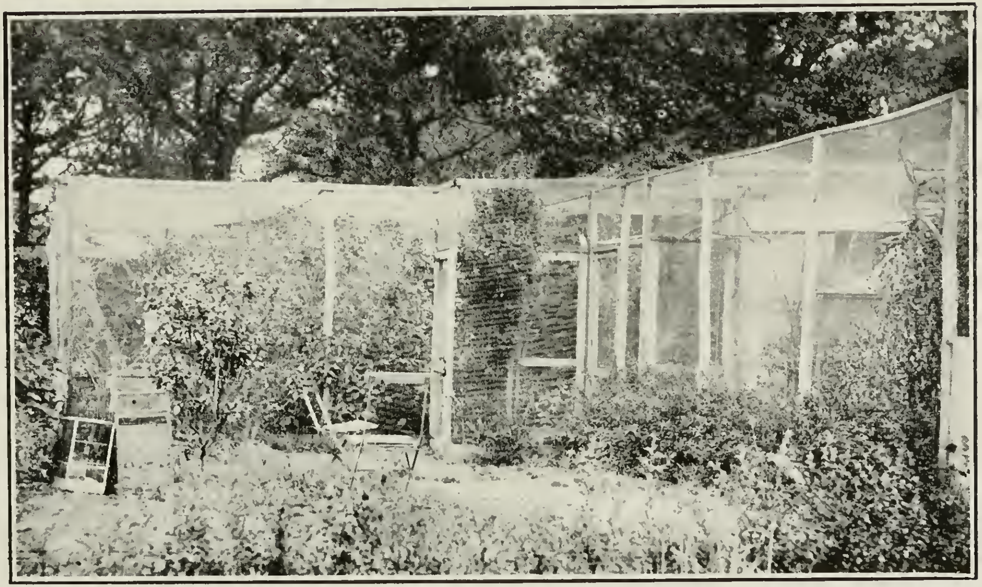
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Reminiscences.

By Dr. Lovell-Keays, F.Z.S., etc.

(Continued from page 182).

Having said good-bye to my first aviary, which, by the way, only cost £10, approximately, for everything—including a carpenter-built shelter, I will now turn to my first finch aviary. In fig. 1 is shown the flight as first designed, and certainly its appearance was sufficiently pleasing to satisfy the most captious. The shelter is not shown, but was originally a cowhouse, with concrete floor—very lofty and, of course, spacious. It was at the extreme end of a block of 9-inch brick buildings, running East to West—the door faced South and was apparently specially constructed for an aviary as it had a large fan light over it. The walls of the shelter were 9-inch work to a height of 8 feet, and then 4½ inch work, and where the two met it formed a ledge on which the birds rested, and on which I could place nesting receptacles. In the middle of the outer or Eastern wall a double window was let in, and this was greatly appreciated by the birds, especially in the winter, as they were able to enjoy the early morning sun, besides affording the extra light. A single row of greenhouse pipes was provided, but only used in very severe weather. The walls were thickly covered with pea-boughs. Altogether it formed in every way an ideal shelter. One more point, and that is the entrance was in the extreme top right-hand corner of the flight, and this very greatly facilitated driving the birds in at night during the winter months. Once in, the door was pulled to, and so the birds were shut in safely. To my mind this was the best shelter I ever had, and was worthy of a better flight. But snug and apparently attractive as this shelter was the birds would never use it unless driven in and shut in. The question of using shelters has always been a knotty point with me. People tell me *their* birds use *their* shelters, but in all my fifteen aviaries this has not been my experience except with parrakeets. The reason seems to me obvious. It is a question of cover. Birds prefer natural cover to shelters, even when well supplied with "twiggy branches," and will willingly face the fiercest gale to satisfy their *penchant* for natural living cover. To prove my point, I put in a growing rhododendron in a pot inside a shelter which the birds *would* not use. At once some of the birds roosted in the shrub, and when I opened the door just as it was getting dark the birds all flew out "as one man," except those roosting in the rhododendron. So convinced am I that this is the explanation that I intend to plant only deciduous trees in my new aviary. This, I believe, will cure the roosting out proclivities, and at the same time obviate the dank condition of all "natural" aviaries, that is inseparable from damp and foggy winter days. It is my firm conviction that birds can stand cold but that damp is fatal to them. Hence, everything that encourages damp should *ipso facto* be discouraged. Which leads one to the simple corollary and that is, to be sure and have a large open space in your aviary, where the sun can reach and the air circulate freely. In other words it is my honest conviction that the cover business can easily be, and generally is, overdone. It is essential to correlate cause and effect. Not to do so spells continued failure, to say nothing of the loss of valued, if not valuable birds. I am now engaged on a new aviary. It is, compared with those previously possessed, a very modest affair. Many of the ideas gained by previous experiences will be introduced, but many, owing to the fact that one has to utilise pre-existing structures, must be left as unavailable. But this open space theory shall not be one of the latter, and I intend to try my hand at Gouldian Finches once again, if they should ever come within the limits of a restricted purse once more. In spite of all that has been written about their rather preferring ice to water to drink, revelling in the snow, and being as hardy as Polar bears, like the canny Scot, "I hae ma doots." Their native heath provides none of these blandishments, and once again I ask where *are* the polar-birds *to-day*? I fancy most of them are enjoying "a far serener clime." No, I am inclined to



Dr. Lovell Keays' Cow-house Aviary.

Fig. II.

think the Wilderness aviary, unless it is of the truly Eastern type, i.e. with not a tree for miles, is best left to those with a sanguine disposition, strongly developed amnesia, and a long pocket. Please don't misunderstand me; some cover, ample cover is almost indispensable to breeding success, but let there not be an *embarras de richesses.* I believe aviculture is still in its infancy, and that an immense amount of work still remains to be done. The difficulty is that few aviculturists keep an accurate record of their purchases, their breeding results, their acquisitions and their losses. If such a record is kept, it is not committed to writing *at the time.* If only aviculturists would follow Polonius' advice to his son, viz:

" To thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man,"

what real progress we should make! But they are not. They are moral cowards, and don't like to confess they lost a pair of ten-guinea birds—especially to their wives, whose yearnings are all in the direction of having the drawing room re-papered, or possibly a new hat. And so the same old deception goes on, which only benefits the dealers, and builds up false hopes in beginners.

And thus, what the gods intended should be an aviary, that should prove the envy of men, turned out to be a *very* partial success. In the early days, before the cover had grown well and converted a flight into an avian Hampton Court maze, birds did well enough there, but latterly, losses became increasingly numerous and disappointing, and breeding successes decreased *pari passu.* This, I am aware, reads like gross heresy, but so did Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood. In this article are shown two illustrations, No. I shows the flights 20 feet by 10, and No. II, 20 feet by 20 feet. In No. I. the birds enjoyed the space, and one could see them. In No. II, owing to the tremendous growth of cover the birds did not seem nearly as happy; one never saw them, and breeding results got less and less as time went on. But is not this just what one finds in nature? You don't find birds in a dense thicket, but rather in the outskirts of woods. As an old entomologist it was the outskirts one beat for both larvae and the imagines of moths. The two, of course, are correlative, for the larvae feed the birds. And so this ideal aviary became as disappointing as the prodigal son. In the first picture one can just see a Red-eared Bulbul, a Parson Finch, and various Grass-finches, Singing-finches,etc., all feasting on seeding grass. And I well remember the standard apple tree that was planted in the middle and what a magnificent displaying ground the antler-like branches afforded the birds, but the cover theory had been inculcated so firmly that even in the picture one can see the creeper growing. It crept alright until the one place of vantage was completely enshrouded, and you had to drive the birds into the shelter to convince a visitor the aviary really contained birds. But lest one be accused of unbridled pessimism, it is only fair to say that *Zosterops virens* was bred here for the first time in captivity. And they, the liveliest, most fascinating and most persevering birds I ever possessed really compensated me for all the other delinquencies of the aviary. Red-crested Cardinals, too, were bred in this aviary. I loved my Cardinals dearly, and even now I fancy I can hear the cock bird calling for his mate. The hen had to be sent on a journey from which there is no return; she suffered from a disease of the semi-circular canals, I fancy, a malady to which all the *Emberizina* seem peculiarly liable. As to the cause, I must confess to utter ignorance. But she reared to full maturity two babies, and thus her destiny was fulfilled and her existence justified. Often when I sit in my little garden to-day I ponder on the glories for ever past and beyond my reach, and am forcibly reminded of the lines:—

> Oft in the stilly night,
> Ere slumbers' chains have bound me,
> Fond memory brings the light
> Of other days around me.

And the thought makes one sad and wonder if the birds one loved so well really die and are no more, or whether they, too, have *their* Paradise, and if so whether our Paradise and theirs will coincide. I hope so.

To be continued.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. etc.

(Continued from page 159).

Weavers.—Times have altered so far as these interesting and obstreperous birds are concerned. A few years ago one wrote " very seldom bred in captivity," but later experience has shown that in roomy and natural garden aviaries some of them breed fairly freely. Perhaps the great difficulty with this group is the securing of true pairs, and even if one gets a promiscuous lot, the hens of some of the species differ so little from each other that, apart from comparing them with properly named skins, sortation is very difficult. Of a good many of the species I have only possessed males, and, where other species of females have been present no attempt has been made at mating. I have only bred two species, viz: the Red-billed and the Napoleon—of the latter species the only one I now possess is a fine male in full colour, which was reared about six years ago in my aviary at Mitcham. I do not know of any successful breeding record in an entirely artificial aviary (I am only writing of Great Britain), i.e., one which contained no living trees or bushes.

For the purposes of this series I need only deal with the species which have successfully bred with me, as a tabulated list was given in the first instalment some two years ago, as to hardiness, etc.—So the simplest and most practical method will be to relate the details, so far as I have them recorded, of my successes with the Red-billed and Napoleon Weavers, the former of which may be described as a fairly free breeder, and the latter as a casual breeder.

The Red-billed Weaver *(Quelea quelea).* This in normal times freely imported species is very largely kept, and one is rather surprised that the instances of success have not been even more numerous. The nest has always been of slightly elongated spherical form, and consisting of only a single chamber; usually compactly woven, so much so that only in one instance was I able to see the eggs through the structure. The entrance hole is so small that the adult birds have to literally push their way in, and when the time has come for the young birds to make their exit, in every instance, both in my aviary and in others I have seen and heard of, the front of the nest has been torn away by the parent birds to allow their progeny free egress. (Some years ago Mr. de Q. Quincey described the successful rearing of young Grenadier Weavers in his aviary in B.N. with illustrations, demonstrating a similar proceeding with this species also), and this practice appears to be the custom with several species of weavers.

The nests in my aviary were all constructed on lateral and swaying branches of bushes, and were placed 5 to 6 feet above the ground. Except in one instance I have not been cognisant of serious nesting till I heard the young calling for food, and, I may state at once that, while the young were largely reared on live insects, they were daily fed on seed; further, in the aviaries of the L.M.T. Cripples' Hospital at Alton a pair, which reared several broods in the course of two or three seasons, reared their young entirely on seed save for such insects as the parents birds captured in the aviary—no live food being supplied.

I must linger for a few remarks on the interest of this common species when nesting, though such be outside the scope of this series.

I am not in a position to describe the manner in which the male courts the female; so far as I know I have never witnessed it, and I have found him only demonstrative after building has become somewhat advanced, when, like so many other species of weavers, he clings to the nest, in all sorts of acrobatic posturing, vociferating his screechy song with all his power, his wings beating with marvellous rapidity, and every nerve in his little body at greatest tension. At intervals during the day this performance was gone through, and it *did not* arise from the interference of other birds in the aviary, but was apparently merely an outlet for his wild exhuberant spirits. I did not observe to what extent the sexes shared the duties of incubation; both parents fed the young while in the nest, and the male principally after they had left it. The young were fed by their parents for 3-4 weeks after leaving the nest, though they visited the seed hoppers on their own account in a very few days. Not much was seen of them for the first two weeks, they skulked amid the foliage in close proximity to the nest, and one could only observe them from some hidden observation post. I believe they slept in the nest for the first few nights—a little later it was very pleasing to watch the family party when they were less retiring, but soon their parents commenced nesting again, and the young were not allowed to come near the nest, and apparently the parents lost all interest in their progeny. The young males came into full colour the following season simultaneously with their parents, both first and second broods.

This account has got too lengthy, and it speaks for itself as to the interest and pleasure it gave the writer.

The juvenile plumage resembles that of the female parent, but has a mealy appearance, and is of a less warm tone, being somewhat of a drabbish hue.

THE NAPOLEON WEAVER *(Pyromelana afra)*.—Also a common species, but a more gorgeously apparelled one when in full colour.

'Twas in 1913 that my only instance of success with this species occurred, and all the main details were essentially the same as with the preceding species.

I was quite unaware of what was taking place, as I noticed nothing particular about the nest to distinguish it from many others that had preceded it, for this pair of birds had been two years in the aviary; but, one morning attendance on the birds took me quite close to one of their nests, and the hen immediately flew off, and I heard the call of quite young birds from within the nest. Sixteen days later two young birds made their exit therefrom, and were similar to their female parent, but were darker and duller in colour, and the striations less distinct. I saw that the parent birds secured a fair number of mealworms and supplied live ants' eggs as well, but a fair amount of seed was fed to the young both while in the nest and after they had flown. Both young birds lived to fend for themselves, but a little later a tragic mishap resulted in the adult pair and one of the young being accidentally killed. The surviving young bird, as already intimated, is an occupant of my aviary to-day—is in full colour and one of the finest and most richly coloured Napoleons I have ever seen.

In 1914 he came into full colour, that is, he possessed the full colours of an adult bird, but they were patchily arranged, but as only the one young bird has been reared to maturity in my aviary I cannot say whether this is normal or not. The following year he came into the perfect adult garment and was resplendent indeed, and has been so each succeeding season since.

The nest was rather small, compactly built, and was only one-chambered, spherical in shape, but a little longer than broad. It was examined the day after the young had flown, and the front was found to be torn away similarly to the nest of *Quelea quelea* already described.

Our member Mr. Shore Baily has successfully bred several species of Weavers; it would be of great interest especially to new members if he would write an article summarising these episodes.

To be continued.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 185).

398.—AUSTRALIAN GREEN-WINGED DOVE. *Chalcophaps chrysochlora* **W.T.P.**

London Zoo, †Russ. Seth Smith. †A.G.B. ii. 286.

Hybrids.

× Australian Green-winged Dove (Indian ditto).

◆

399.—INDIAN GREEN-WINGED DOVE. *C. indica.* **W.T.P.**

Seth Smith, 1904-05. †A.G.B. ii. 256.

Zoo, 1908.

Abroad. 1st, Russ, †Russ. "easily bred" †Russ.

HYBRIDS.

INDIAN GREEN-WINGED DOVE × AUSTRALIAN ditto. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × CHRISTMAS ISLAND ditto. W.T.P.

◆

400.—CHRISTMAS ISLAND GREEN-WINGED DOVE. *C. natalis.*

HYBRIDS.
× Christmas Island Green-winged Dove (Indian ditto).

◆

401.—COMMON BRONZE-WING. *Phaps chalcoptera.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1871 and later. †A.G.B. ii. 285. 1913, †Report.
Abroad. 1st, Cornely, †Russ.

◆

402.—BRUSH BRONZE-WING. *P. elegans.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Seth Smith. A.S. Medal, 1904. See A.M. n.s. ii. 211, 263.
Zoo, 1904, 1905, 1906.

◆

403.—HARLEQUIN BRONZE-WING. *Histriophaps histrionica.*

Zoo, 1866. †A.G.B. ii. 290.
Abroad. 1st, Cornely, Russ.

◆

404.—PARTRIDGE BRONZE-WING. *Geophaps scripta.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Newman, 1908. A.S. Medal. A.M. (2) vi. 337.
Abroad. 1st, Cornely, †Russ.

◆

405.—WHITE-BELLIED PLUMED PIGEON. *Lophophaps leucogastra.* **W.T.P.**

"Plumed Ground-Dove."
Zoo, 1895. "*plumifera,*" but according to Seth Smith were "*leucogastra.*" †A.G.B. ii. 291.

◆

406.—AUSTRALIAN CRESTED PIGEON. *Ocyphaps lophotes.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo freely.

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407.—RUFOUS DOVE. *Leptoptila reichenbachi.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Alderson, 1904. A.S. Medal. A.M. n.s. ii. 270.

408.—BRONZE-NAPED DOVE. *L. chloronchenia.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Alderson, 1904 . A.S. Medal. A.M. n.s. iii. 130.

409.—WHITE-FRONTED DOVE. *L. jamaicensis.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Alderson, 1903. A.S. Medal. A.M. n.s. ii. 393.

410.—RED GROUND-DOVE. *Geotrygon montana.* **W.T.P.**

London Zoo, †Russ. (A.G.B. ii. 293).

411.—MOUNTAIN WITCH DOVE. *G. versicolor.*

Zoo, 1904.

412.—VENEZUELAN GROUND-DOVE. *G. venezuelensis.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1911, 1912.

413.—BLEEDING-HEART PIGEON. *Phlogoenas luzonica.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Alderson, 1893. See A.M. (2) i. 132.
Abroad. 1st, Karl, †Russ. "Easily bred" †Russ.

414.—BARTLETT'S BLEEDING-HEART PIGEON. *P. crinigera.* **W.T.P.**

London Zoo, †Russ.
Newman, 1907. †A.G.B. ii. 298.

415.—WONGA-WONGA PIGEON. *Leucosarcia picata.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1889 onwards. †A.G.B. ii. 302.

416.—BLUE-HEADED GROUND-DOVE. *Starnoenas cyanocephala.* **W.T.P.**

1st, Zoo, 1870. †A.G.B. ii. 302.

417.—NICOBAR PIGEON. *Caloenas nicobarica.* **W.T.P.**

Zoo, 1865 onwards; and freely with Meade Waldo. †A.G.B. ii. 303.

GOURIDAE.

418.—CROWNED GOURA. *Goura coronata.** **W.T.P.**

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ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH NAMES.—PIGEONS.

353.—SNOW PIGEON. White-backed Pigeon. White-bellied Pigeon .

354.—GUINEA PIGEON. Triangular-spotted Pigeon.

357.—SPLENDID PIGEON. Scallop-necked Pigeon, Scaled Pigeon.

369.—PEA-DOVE. Zenaida Dove.

374.—BARBARY DOVE. "Ring-Dove" popularly, Collared Dove.

381.—NECKLACE DOVE. Malay Spotted Dove.

386.—ZEBRA DOVE. Barred Ground-Dove.

388.—DIAMOND DOVE. "Red-eyes" in Australia.

395.—CAPE DOVE. Harlequin Dove, Masked Dove.

397.—EMERALD DOVE. Emerald-spotted Dove; Bronze-spotted Dove; Rufous-winged Dove.

410.—RED GROUND-DOVE. Partridge Pigeon, Ruddy Quail-Dove.

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FALCONIDAE.

419.—JACKAL BUZZARD. *Buteo jakal.* **W.T.P.**
1st Gurney, AS. Medal, 1906. A.M. n.s. v. 57.

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420.—KESTREL. *Cerchneis tinnunculus.* **W.T.P.**

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OWLS.

BUBONIDAE.

421.—EAGLE OWL. *Bubo bubo.* **W.T.P.**
"For several generations." Finn: World's Birds, p. 88.

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422.—CAPE EAGLE OWL. *B. maculosus.* **W.T.P.**
1st, Bonhote, 1901, A.S. Medal. A.M. viii. 39.
Zoo, 1905.

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*The Zoo report for 1913 records the hatching of one in the Gardens, which died, however, before leaving the nest.

In the P.Z.S. 1849, p. 172, the hatching of a hybrid, *Goura coronata × victoria* is noted, but this bird only lived 4 days.

423.—SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea nyctea.* **W.T.P.**

424.—SCOPS OWL. *Scops scops.* **W.T.P.**
Meade Waldo, A.S. Medal, 1899. A.M. v. 159.

425.—TAWNY OWL. *Syrnium aluco.* **W.T.P.**

426.—LITTLE OWL. *Athene noctua.* **W.T.P.**

427.—BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905.

428.—JARDINE'S PYGMY OWL. *Glaucidium jardinei.*
Chawner, 1915. See B.N. 1915, 194.

To be continued.

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Autumn in the Aviary.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Autumn is one of the most interesting periods of the year in a large wilderness aviary, as well as being one of the busiest.

Not only are there the joys of seeing the various family parties of birds about, i.e. if a modicum of luck has come our way, but it is the season of stripping off old garments and donning new ones, an especially interesting period if we possess species which pass through an eclipse plumage; at any rate we shall have the interest of seeing any young birds which have been reared shedding their juvenile robes and donning the garments of adults.

But it is very often also a period that is fruitful of results, and frequently the redeeming part of the season, when we often have the pleasure of seeing many successful late nests, compensating for, perhaps, many grievous and disappointing failures in the early part of the season; the writer has often found it so, especially with species of the family *TURDIDAE*, the last nests of the season being frequently successful ones, while the earlier ventures had entirely failed.

What excitement, too, there appears to be among the occupants of our aviaries, how busy they are! how active and alert! what gathering together of small parties and then with a wild whirr of wings very sudden dispersals. I have often thought as I watched them: the arduous labours of the season being ended they indulge in a sort of "Harvest Home" period, while recouping their vigour and gathering together energy and vitality to carry them through the dark period of the year. They need some help, too, from the aviarist to assist them in storing up energy to withstand winter's hardship, and thus to lay, as it were, a foundation for the next season's successes.

It is the busy season for the aviculturist, for with the advent of October the work of renovation and making all snug for the winter must begin. Possibly I can best illustrate the need of this by briefly referring to an instance of the lack of it. Some few years ago I saw a series of aviaries, some new, others of older standing, but all in first class condition, and the breeding season therein had been most successful. I saw them again the following season, when the measure of success was not so great, though young of some very interesting species were reared. I saw them again later when they were a mass of tangled growth, almost impenetrable in parts, and dank and dark because very little light and sun could penetrate the dense masses of foliage to dry the herbage and ground beneath, and possibly on the ground lay more than one season's produce of decaying leaves, etc., to enhance the adverse conditions existing where once they had been almost ideal—the main fault being that I verily believe the pruning knife had scarcely been used since they were inaugurated—of course, the last season was unsuccessful, not that young birds were not reared, but owing to the fact of the almost appalling losses among the reared young birds in the fall of the year—the owner of the aviary wrongly blamed the "Wilderness Aviary" for the ill-luck; he might rightly have blamed the wilderness conditions that he had allowed to come about—note that when the conditions of his aviary were almost ideal, they were " Wilderness Aviaries " as the term is used by aviculturists; later, they were merely masses of tangled growth with dank and unwholesome herbage beneath. I must be quite clear, as to food provided, the cleanliness of food vessels, the periodical overhauling of nest receptacles, all was in perfect order—translating the word " wilderness " too literally was responsible for the ill-luck of the later period.

At the risk of labouring the point, I had better point out that the term " Wilderness Aviary " has been fancifully applied to the *naturally planted garden aviary*, and " has stuck," but intelligence forbids that it is possible for the largest enclosure to have space for clearings and masses of tangled foliage, and such should not be permitted; if it is, the birds during autumn, when things at their best are more or less damp, owing to the heavy night and morning dews, will have to face not merely adverse, but very unhealthy conditions.

Now, I hope I have made the need clear, and will proceed to try to show what form *the writer considers* the annual clear up of the, so-called, wilderness flight should take.

The cleaning, overhauling of nest receptacles, renewal of perching branches (keeping food vessels clean is an everyday matter) is so obvious that I shall leave this to be understood; perhaps I had better try and tabulate what I consider should be the autumn procedure.

(1) The shelter must be overhauled—all structural dilapidations should be made good, all cracks of walls and leaks in roof stopped, and a coat of paint or tar given wherever required.

(2) All bushes, trees, and shrubs should be more or less severely pruned, according to their need. Their centres should be thinned out and they should be shortened so that there is a space of a foot between their tops and flight roof netting. They should be cut into form so as to be clear of neighbouring bushes. Space for flight demands that there should be open avenues between the bushes or groups of bushes, not only direct from front to back, but also lateral ones as well. If this be properly done at this season, there will be no need for summer

pruning; there will be ample opportunity for light, sun and air to perform their healthy work, and the birds will be more or less always in the picture.

(3) All creepers should be similarly treated to the bushes, and each cut strictly back to their respective spheres, and wherever they have rambled through the top netting and lie thereupon should be ruthlessly cut back to aviary limits—during the summer their rampant growth has been picturesque and helpful, supplying both shade and cover, but during the late autumn and winter it is not so; every obstruction to the admittance of light, sun, and air must go, that these may have full play to do their healthful renovating work.

(4) There now remains the ground level to be dealt with, and here the work must be thorough. Firstly, all herbage and grass must be cut off short and cleared away; then sprinkle the surface well with salt, and fork over all spaces of earth kept bare, and the conditions will then be perfectly wholesome and sweet. It is really good practice to dig all over the aviary and to dig in the grass as well, except special clumps of coarse reedy grasses, and if sufficient does not come up in the spring, then lay down a few turves.

(5) All leaves as they fall should be periodically gathered up and not allowed to decompose in the aviary, or there will be unhealthy foetid emanations therefrom.

Now, I hope all is clear, even to the tyro, but I will repeat that, as far as possible, when planting an aviary we put in as large bushes as can be safely transplanted, and each season each must be relentlessly cut back to the allocated space, and so pruned as to promote healthy growth, in fact similar to our treatment of trees and shrubs in garden or orchard.

Personally, when planting an aviary, I always use deciduous and evergreen trees and bushes in about equal proportions.

I am perfectly aware that, in writing the above, I have told nothing new, but it is often the well known that is neglected, and the above procedure is certainly necessary to the well being of the occupants of our aviaries.

The Story of Joey—Our Blue-fronted Conure.

By Miss D. E. Pithie.

I see by last month's Bird Notes the Marquis of Tavistock says: "Conures are very noisy, destructive to woodwork, and vicious with other birds." Joey is evidently an exception to this rule, for he is none of these things. About eleven years ago my mother and I were in Southampton, looking round the bird shops and slumming, when in one shop my mother heard a funny little voice behind her say: "Come on, mother;" it was a dirty little bird which the dealer called a "Sooty Lory," and she bought him for 6s. He wanted to sell us a cage, but they were all so dirty and in those days even dear. We hurried back to the "Ditches" and got a really nice new parrot cage for 5s., met Joey at the station, and when we got home put him in this cage. We sprayed him well, and he became a lovely little bird. He learnt to say "apple" in three days, and became very friendly. When we moved to Southsea Joey was put in the kitchen, as our late maid was devoted to him. He learned any amount of words there, but his plumage suffered, and for six years he has been looking very moth-eaten. When the maid left, he was brought out of the kitchen, and now lives in the dining room, which looks on to the street by day, and in a spare room with the others at night. He knows perfectly well when it is meal time, and gives one no peace until his wants have been attended to. For breakfast warm milk and sugar, with a bit of bacon fat or fried bread (I am sure the Editor will shake his head over his bill of fare!); Lunch: either bread and butter, suet pudding, if there is any, and he knows that from anything else, or else a piece of apple; Tea: a spoonful of tea, very sweet, and piece of bread and butter or cake—he *will* have these things. I think a sugar card ought to be allowed for him! He used to sit up to dinner and then would have potato, but lately we've put him up with the others after tea, and he entertains them for ages. He is out of his cage all day long, generally sitting on a waste paper basket, which is his very own. He loves a box (Quaker oats) to play with, or a sheet of paper, but is frightened of a fir cone or piece of stick. Many times, when our late maid's husband was here she was sure Joey was going to die, but I always said he'd be alright when her husband had gone; and so he was. He looks very old—quite decrepit sometimes. He is a coward with other birds, and runs away from my Tovi parrakeet, giving up anything to him, but he won't let him have his teaspoon, as he tips it off as soon as he has finished with it. One day he was straining to look at my mother through the window when over he went, basket and all, and the basket on top of him; he was in a fearful state, calling out: "Hallo, Joey, what'cher want." He is very fond of saying "Joey have a bath, Joey having a bath," but he takes good care *not* to have one, and if one sprays him he has to be brought round with whisky, which in these days is beyond one; so he goes dirty. His plumage is recovering now, and he is a lovely colour, so probably the heat of the kitchen set up an irritation which made him peck himself. Anyway, he doesn't do so now, and he's as knowing as he can be, for if he starts to peck we powder him with Mennen's powder. Sometimes it is enough to put the tin by his side. Joey is a great favourite, and great will be the loss when he goes West.

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A Pal's Aviaries.

By R. Suggitt.

I recently paid a visit of a few hours to our Editor, Mr. W. T. Page, at Lingfield, and think a description of his aviaries and birds will be of interest to our members.

There are four aviaries, one large and three small ones, also two pheasant runs; the three small ones are facing, approximately, north, and of course this position would be fatal in the northern counties, but the Surrey hills are in a totally different atmosphere. The shelters of these are three lean-to sheds, about 8 ft. square, with wire flights some 12 ft. by 8 ft. At the time of my visit one was untenanted, and contained a *Palaeornis nipalensis*, and the other a Blossom-headed Parrakeet and a Scaly-breasted Lorikeet. They were in perfect condition.

I was sorry to see distinct signs of rats, and am afraid that on account of the adjacent buildings our Editor will have great trouble in entirely clearing these rodents, as the burrows are of long standing. (I am happy to say that these are now cleared.—W.T.P.).

The large aviary is a very fine one about 40 feet long and varying from 25 to 30 feet wide with shed some 18 feet by 10 feet, well lighted. The flight is lofty and facing south; perhaps the only drawback is its being too thickly planted with shrubs such as cupressus, bamboo, laurel, berberis, spruce fir, and evergreen privet, in addition to rambler roses, forsythia, weigela, honey-suckle, polygonum, and convolvulus, with a standard ash in the centre of the flight. From my point of view these shrubs, etc., are overgrown, and quite half the space they occupy would be better cleared. ("Forewarned is forearmed"—I can assure friend Suggitt he will never be let loose in this aviary with a pruning knife, even for half an hour.—W.T.P.).

I am no advocate of an aviary where all the birds can be seen at a glance, but a too thickly planted enclosure is deprived of much interest. We of course, all differ in these little details.

I am strongly in favour of yew closely clipped into dense bushes, tree box and privet clipped at least three times a year. These make cosy nesting and sleeping quarters.

Yew, I think, most bird keepers fight shy of, as it has a bad name. I have, however, had over a dozen in my aviaries for 15 years, and have not, to my knowledge, lost a single bird through their eating the foliage. Many birds are fond of them and I have at least one record of young foreign finches reared almost entirely on the young shoots and buds, and I strongly recommend it after an exhaustive trial. (I know of many similar experiences, yet I mistrust it, and with so many nonpoisonous shrubs to choose from I do not admit it into my aviaries, nor yet take the responsibility of advising its use—the individual aviarist must assume that.—W.T.P.).

Of course, our Editor, like the rest of us, is suffering from a shortage of birds. Still, he had a very fair assortment, amongst which, I noticed several Avadavats and Java Sparrows, Indian Silver-bills, at least three pairs of Himalayan Siskins, Pekin Robins, Crimson Finches, Napoleon, Speke's and Rufus-Necked Weavers; Green-winged, Red-Ground, European, Vinaceous, Barbary, and Turtle Doves; Sky-larks, Missel Thrushes, several very fine Himalayan Siskin × Canary Hybrids, a solitary Malabar Mynah and a pair of Common Pheasants *(P. colchicus)*. The Pheasantry contained a cock Gold Pheasant mated to a hen *colchicus*, and a pair of the latter.

A path round the large aviary gives a view from any point. A herbaceous border in front of this aviary, with climbing roses covering the standards gives a very pleasing effect, viewed from the lawn.

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Scandinavian Game Birds.

ACCLIMATIZATION EXPERIMENTS.

Reprinted from "The Times," with our thanks to Editor and Author—cutting per Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.—Editor. B.N.

"Throughout rural Sweden and Norway large numbers of capercailzie and blackgame are annually taken by means of snares and traps of various kinds.

These birds are intended generally for food purposes, and no regard is had to the manner in which they are captured, it being a matter of indifference to the "Fangstmand" whether they are alive or dead, injured or not, when he secures them. But one day some well-known local merchant or farmer receives an intimation from one of his correspondents in South Sweden that live birds in good condition would be acceptable. This information is promptly circulated throughout the district, and a reformation in the type of instruments of capture at once takes place; instead, moreover, of being left unvisited for days together, the traps are inspected at frequent intervals. The value of a live bird is at least three times as great as that of a dead one. So well adapted for the purpose are the traps used in some of the Swedish forests that a bird when caught is not only absolutely unhurt, but the space in which it finds itself confined has been so accurately determined that it cannot struggle to the endangerment of its wings or legs, or even injure its plumage. I have several times seen capercailzie, caught in these contrivances, removed by the expert hands of a native hunter; they seemed to be temporarily stunned by the misfortune that had befallen them, and made no resistance to speak of.

THE HAZEL GROUSE.

A much rarer and more valuable captive than either capercailzie, blackcock, or greyhen is the hazel grouse. This pretty little game bird spends most of its time in the trees, and is therefore extremely difficult to catch even in Finland, where it is very plentiful. On one occasion I was asked by an American friend if I could procure him a few. Although assured by many game experts in different parts of Scandinavia that it was impossible, I succeeded, after a great deal of trouble, in getting nine in the course of two seasons, but the cost was very heavy.

The original cause which creates a demand for live game birds in Sweden or Norway is generally some large acclimatisation experiment which is being arranged for in Copenhagen. That town is a convenient centre, and from thence their departure is wired to the countries beyond the sea for which they are intended. During the years immediately before the war, several hundreds of Scandinavian game birds were thus dispatched from the Danish capital to the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, British Columbia, and Tasmania, and, in view of the length of the different journeys, the mortality was wonderfully small.

In small lots from various parts of the country the birds reach the " collector " in South Sweden, who has a properly arranged enclosure ready for their reception. For various reasons he is averse to retaining them longer than is necessary, and as soon as approximately the required number has been obtained he communicates with the principal in Copenhagen. The latter then arranges for deck space and caretaking on board a Transatlantic or other steamer—not always an easy matter—and on the morning of the day on which the vessel is advertised to sail the birds arrive by the first boat from Malmö. They are accompanied by a supply of food sufficient for the length of the entire voyage on which they are being sent, and they are packed in cases containing at most three individuals. These cases are about 15 inches high, inside measurement; the roof is thickly padded with canvas and leather to prevent the occupants from injuring their heads; the front is composed of upright lengths of wood, the spaces between which give easy access to a trough which runs along outside and is divided into three sections containing corn and wild berries mixed, water, and sand, while, in order to facilitate cleaning, each case has a false or removable floor like a canary cage. The old cock capercailzie being very cantankerous and pugnacious, each of them has a case to itself, and it is inadvisable to put a hand within their reach, as with their powerful bill they can—and frequently do—inflict a very painful wound.

NEED FOR GREAT CARE.

In order to reduce the mortality on long journeys as much as possible, too great care cannot be taken with the birds. On board ship they should have a caretaker from among the crew, and they should be so placed as not to be disturbed and casually fed by strangers; while in rough weather the cases must be covered over with tarpaulin, as sea water is very injurious. On the other hand, they cannot have too much air; they can stand any amount of cold, but not excessive heat. A long train journey is especially trying with its jangling and general disturbance. In the case of the capercailzie for the Algonquin Park a special pass was obtained by the Canadian Government from the New York Custom House authorities, and on the arrival of the steamer from Copenhagen the birds were at once sent direct in a special railway carriage to their destination in Ontario.

Extraordinary care was also taken with regard to the blackgame for British Columbia, and their condition was telegraphed at frequent intervals on the journey from New York across the American continent. Each shipment of the large number of birds for the president of the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company was at once, on reaching New York, taken over by an express company and forwarded with all speed to Ohio, where they arrived with wonderfully little loss. The birds for Tasmania had to be sent *via* London, whence they travelled under the personal care of their purchaser on board a mail steamer.

The willow grouse is, as is well known, captured in thousands during the winter months in Northern Scandinavia, and usually in a manner which entails much suffering. Ryper snaring as it is carried on in Norway is, in fact, a disgrace. The snares are rarely looked after properly, and as a result most of the birds entangled are frozen to death after having broken wings or legs in the struggle to escape; others die of hunger and thirst, and many are torn to pieces by the foxes and ravens.

As with the wood game birds, however, so with the willow grouse, and when it is made worth the " Fangstmand's " while he can secure them alive and uninjured. Like the capercailzie, they are excellent travellers, and of some 300 which were sent abroad about 1910-11 nearly all reached their various destinations in safety."

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A Plumage Episode of the Common Pheasant.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Etc.

In 1918 a Pal up North took a nest of pheasant eggs and put them under a broody hen to hatch out for me. In due course every egg hatched out, but in the end from various mishaps there were but three survivors. These were sent to me in August of the same year. When the hamper was opened they all had more or less damaged heads, and one of them died two days later; the other two did well. One was more advanced than the other and already had patches of colour indicating it was a male, and before a week had passed the other showed the same indications; by the middle of October both were in full colour and were typical Ring-necks *(torquatus)* in every respect.

In the early spring of this year our member, Capt. J. S. Reeve, kindly allowed his gamekeeper to capture me four hens from his coverts, and these duly reached me. I put one of the young males in one of my pheasant runs with one of the hens, another of the hens I put with a Gold Pheasant, and the other two I put in my large aviary with the other young male *(torquatus?)*. All of these birds are still alive. In the large aviary several nests have been made on the ground under spreading bushes, and I feel sure that, but for disturbance of digging out rats at intervals, incubation, etc., would have duly followed—I had no desire to rear any this year by foster-parents, and no such attempt was made—in consequence, matters did not get beyond the egg stage, the hens laying 80-90 eggs, many of which still lie in the aviary.

To go back to the young males, they remained, as regards plumage, as described above, viz: typical *torquatus*, till the end of July; at this period they went into moult; the moult is now (September 5th) complete, and to my surprise there is now no trace of *torquatus* about them, the white collar has entirely disappeared, and they are fairly typical *colchicus*. I am perfectly aware that in Great Britain there are very few pure *colchicus* to be found, nearly all our stock being tainted by crossing with *torquatus* and *principalis*, and that such birds, showing the plumage characters of *torquatus* and *principalis*, will in a few generations revert back to the species from which they were derived.

I must say, however, that to the writer the fact, of a bird showing the plumage of *torquatus* at the first moult and continuing so for a twelve month, to, at the next moult, drop these characteristics and don the garb of a typical *colchicus*, is new.

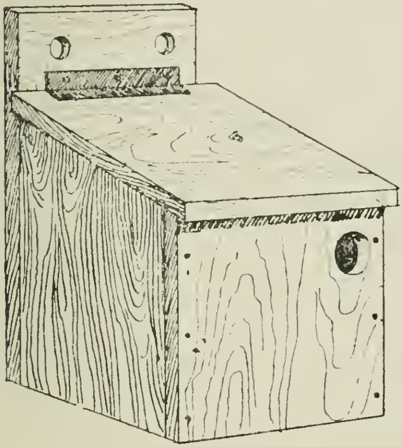
I shall await the result of the 1920 moult with much interest.

◆

Nest-Boxes for Bird Protection.

By Sir Leo Chiozza Money.

I write this note for the benefit of those of our members who have not made the acquaintance of the excellent nesting-boxes sold by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W. I give illustrations of two of them.



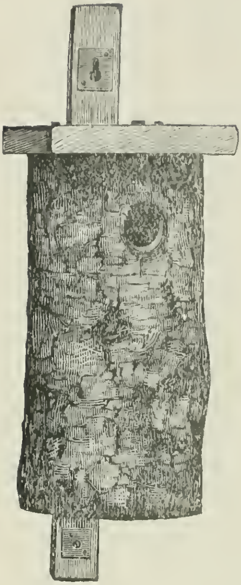
The "Walden" nest-box is very much liked by Tits, Nut Hatches, etc. It will be seen that it has a hinged lid so that the nest can be easily inspected.

In Surrey, when I put one of these boxes on an oak tree about five feet from the ground, it was in a single season first used by a pair of Nuthatches, and second by a pair of Yellow Budgerigars which were flying at liberty. In each case the brood was successfully reared. In the following year it was used by Great Tits.

It is an exceedingly pretty box, and can be easily attached to a tree, pergola, building, fence, or post.

In the aviary it suits many birds, from Budgerigars to Zebra Finches. Two pairs of Budgerigars, in an aviary where the nest-boxes provided were two barrels, two cocoa-nut husks, and two of these Walden boxes, promptly chose the last-named. It is an excellent plan to nail a small straight branch across the front of the box just below the hole. When used for Budgerigars, it is necessary to enlarge the hole.

The price of this Walden nest-box is 3s., so that one thing at least can be bought free from profiteering.



The other nest-box illustrated, the "A," is of a quite different type. It has a bottle-shaped cavity as originally designed by Baron Berplesch, after a study of natural Woodpeckers' holes. This box is suitable for all the tits, the Nuthatch, Tree-creeper, Wryneck, Redstart, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and Wren. A variation of this type, made with a small entrance hole, in order to exclude sparrows, is only suitable for small Tits. Another type of the same box, figure "B," is designed for the Starling, or the Great Spotted Woodpecker, although it will also, of course, accommodate the same birds as the "A" pattern.

Then there is a half open variety, "F," for Robins, Redstarts and Flycatchers, which I have used with success.

These boxes look exceedingly pretty in the garden or wood ,or in the aviary. The price of the "A," or "A1," with brass hinges is 3s. 6d. "B" with brass hinges 4s. "F" box is 3s. (All these prices are carriage extra).

Two other excellent things sold by this society deserve to be mentioned. The first is a hanging food-box, "The Hanger-On." It has a roof lid and can be hung from a tree, pergola, or veranda. Its price, post free, is 2s.

Then there is an "Aye-Ready" seed hopper which fastens to a tree or wall and swings with the wind to keep the interior dry. This costs 3s. by post. Both these articles are pretty and well-made.

If ten thousand people could be persuaded to buy these nest-boxes and to put them up in their gardens and woodlands they would be conferring a great benefit upon the nation in addition to giving themselves a great deal of innocent pleasure. The felling of woodlands in the war has made it all the more important to take steps to preserve insectivorous birds.

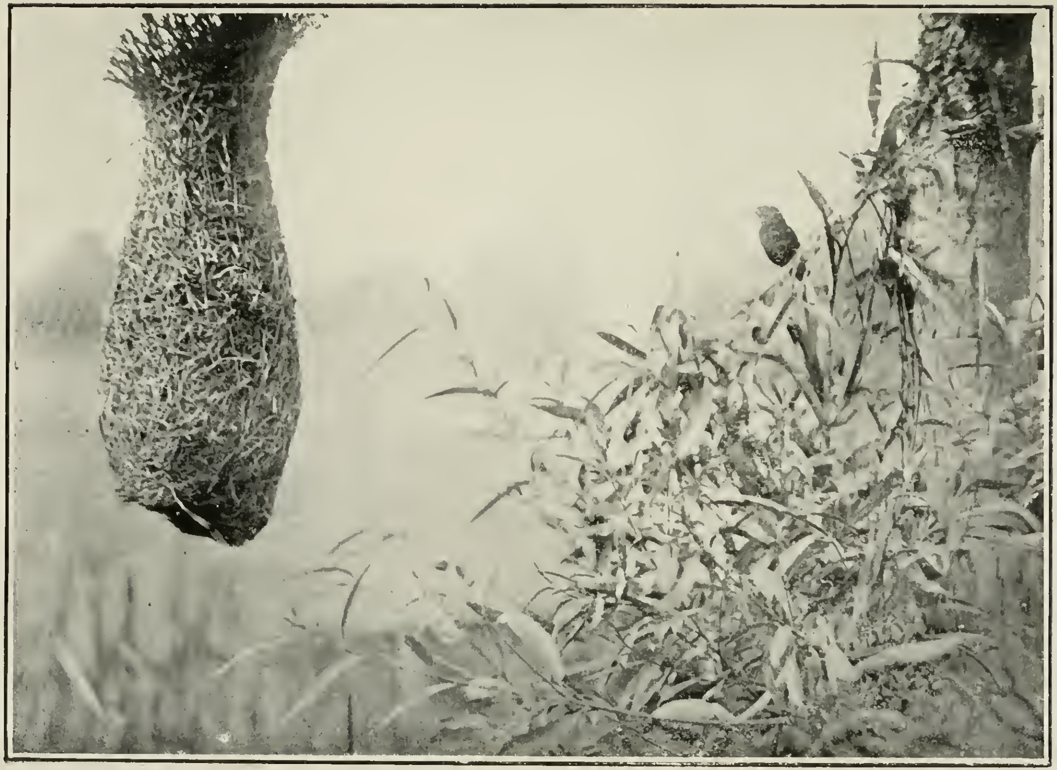


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Baya Weaver and Nest.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Indian Weaver Bird and Some Others.

By W. SHORE BAILY.

From time to time consignments of these birds come to us from India, but it seems as if the catchers take the male birds only, as one so seldom sees the females offered, and, even when they are advertised, they are probably young males, or adult cocks out of colour. I take it that this is the reason that they have never been bred in this country. It is true that one sometimes sees young birds advertised as having been bred here, but on investigation these usually prove to be young of one of the numerous kinds of Yellow African Weavers. Only last week I was offered an adult pair of these birds, which, on inspection, proved to be Rufous-necked Weavers—a much larger bird.

The four varieties of Indian Weavers are *Ploceus baya*, *P. manyar*, *P. bengalensis* and *P. hypocanthus*, all of which I take it are occasionally imported. My experience of them is limited to one example, and that I believe a Baya. Since I have had him he has spent his time in my large aviaries, with a mixed series of birds, and I have not found him particularly pugnacious, although Dr. Butler gives him rather a bad character in this respect. As a Weaver he is *facile princeps;* none of the African species, although some of them are really clever builders, can compare with him. The first year I had him he took possession, late in the season, of an Abyssinian Weaver's nest, and converted it to suit his own tastes, afterwards roosting every night in the lower half, whilst the much larger Abyssinian occupied the upper story. Last year he built an orthodox nest of about 13 inches in length, which is stated to be the usual size in its own country; but this year he altogether excelled himself as the photograph shows. This nest measures 23 inches long by 22 inches in circumference at the bottom, a remarkable effort for so small a bird. The nesting chamber is not completed, as with this species this work is, I believe, done by the hen only. The bar across the inside of the bottom of the nest, to which the egg chamber should be attached, is used as a perch on which he roosts at night. It is absolutely wind and water tight, so that he has very comfortable night quarters, even in the worst of weather. It is to be hoped that there will be a few hens in the next lot of these birds that come over, as they would be interesting birds to try and breed.

Other Weavers that have nested in these aviaries are the Olivaceous, the Rufous-necked and the Abyssinian; all three quite large birds; the Black-headed and Half-masked, about size of the Baya; the Napoleon, Taha, Orange, Red-billed and Dwarf. The three first build retort-shaped nests, about 7 or 8 inches long, and usually suspended from the wire roof of the aviary. The entrance to the nest is generally lengthened a couple of inches, once incubation is commenced. The rare Olivaceous Weaver was the neatest builder of the three. He reared two hybrids from a small weaver hen. Young were also partially reared by the Abyssinians, but the Rufous-necked never got as far as eggs with me. The Black-headed and Half-masked have also nested here several times, although the young have never been fully reared. Their nests are just like the others but smaller. They are frequently suspended from growing shrubs, and in this case the shape is sometimes altered to suit the varying conditions. The Taha, Napoleon, and Orange Weavers build very flimsy spherical nests in bushes or reeds. The entrance hole is usually on the side. I have known Orange Weavers' nests so frail that their pretty blue eggs have dropped through to the ground. A number of young Taha and Napoleon Weavers have been bred here. The Red-billed Weaver, on the contrary, has never bred here. Many nests are built every year, and during the season much chattering and noise takes place, but no eggs are laid. For a good many years now I have always had a few of these birds, but until last week I did not know that they ever varied in colour, but, when walking through one of the West End bird stores, I noticed a little black bird with a rich Yellow-bill, in with a hen Red-billed. On further exploring I discovered three more, all of which I now have. One is all black except for a little buff on abdomen; another black with a few chocolate marks on breast and abdomen; the third is dark chocolate with a black head, and the fourth is dark brown with a chocolate head. Three have bright yellow beaks, and the other coral red. By the way why are these birds called Red-billed Weavers when so many of them have yellow beaks? Their nest is something like a cup lying on its side, the entrance hole being large for the size of the nest. The young birds would certainly have no difficulty in leaving it unassisted. Contrary to the experience of other aviculturists, I have never observed any male Weaver breaking up the nest in order to enable the young to leave, but on several occasions I have seen them doing it, *after the young birds have left*. The Dwarf Weaver builds a very small nest; the entrance hole is so small that I could only insert one finger. These nests were suspended over water. Two pairs of young ones were fully reared here. The nests were miniatures of the other Yellow Weavers.

Reminiscences.

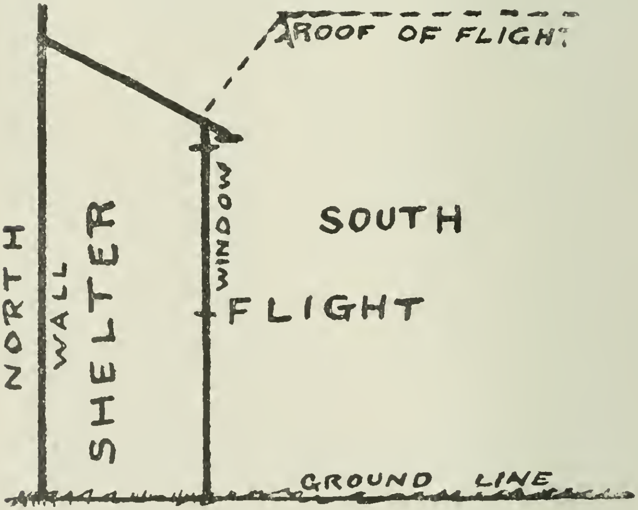
By Dr. L. Lovell Keays., F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 176).

Writing reminiscences is not a very cheerful occupation. It is too much like disturbing the family ghost; or like the old actor recalling past triumphs, well knowing that his day is past and that the future can never bring back those halcyon days. And so the task seems to grow more burdensome as each instalment becomes due, or rather, as I am reminded by a letter from the Editor, overdue.

My Sussex home and its aviaries can never be forgotten in spite of their many faults and failings . Where I live now the whole grounds would not contain them, and so perforce I have to content myself with one aviary of modest dimensions and a collection of birds only worthy of the veriest tyro. Even young Zebra Finches cause a flutter in the dove cot. But let us not lose time in vain regrets, but get on with the subject in hand.

My next aviaries were my first serious attempt at building an aviary, and I had a great deal of advice as to their construction . The result was not pleasing. If you have ever seen a fine drawing-room hopelessly cut up and spoilt by being badly furnished you can fancy what these aviaries were like. To commence with; they were built against a south wall. The roof of the shelter slanted from the wall downwards. The result was that these aviaries were very dismal, even in summer. I realised it when too late. Obviously one ought to have either a top light or large high windows to let in the sun in all its glory, and not do one's best to discourage it. One can diagrammatically represent what I mean, thus:—



Now, wherever you put the sun it is obvious that its rays can never reach one quarter of the shelter, and at its most advantageous altitude the sun must necessarily be rising or setting.

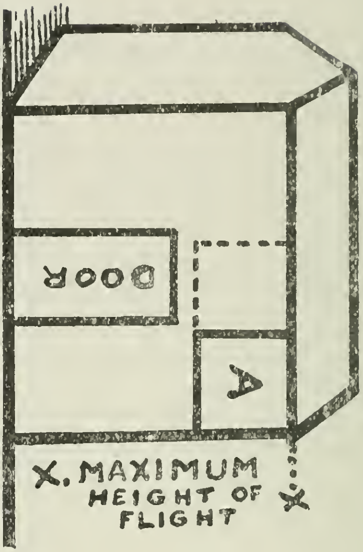
The Aviaries.

Hence these aviaries, which were really excellently constructed, never pleased me, and much less the birds. Another point, and that is the ventilation was always bad. But such is the endurance of birds that many did *exist* for quite a while, even here.

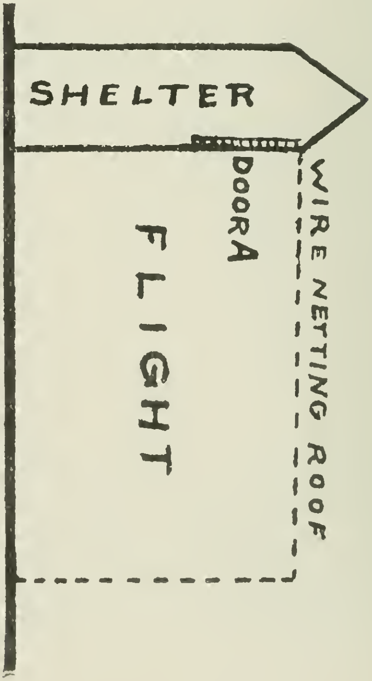
Bad as it was in this particular, it became hopelessly so when you wanted to drive in the birds in severe weather or in order to catch them up. Now, it is an indisputable fact that when birds are *driven* they invariably either hide in the bushes or fly straight to the top of the flight and as far away from their pursuer as possible. The consequence was that the majority of the birds always flew on to the wire work marked XY, and one tried to drive them in until the weariness of the flesh took hold of one. In other words, driving in the birds proved a *hopeless* proposition. The only way to catch them was to keep them short of food, then put food in the shelters, and when the birds went in let the window drop. Once in they were driven from one shelter to another through a kind of tunnel communication, and there shut in. In that way one laboriously caught the birds. In fact one had to become an amateur trapper. This is not an overdrawn picture emanating from a disordered imagination, but a hard fact which drove one to desperation more than once when I wanted to catch the birds. To those who contemplate building an aviary, let the diagram, shown on the next page, suggest the aim and object.

The door A is to allow the birds to go in and out of the shelter and should be at one top corner. With such an aviary, driving birds in is a matter of seconds and certainty. The diagrams are not meant to be to scale or even in proportion. I should be sorry to construct such a shelter, for instance, but I trust it will convey my meaning.

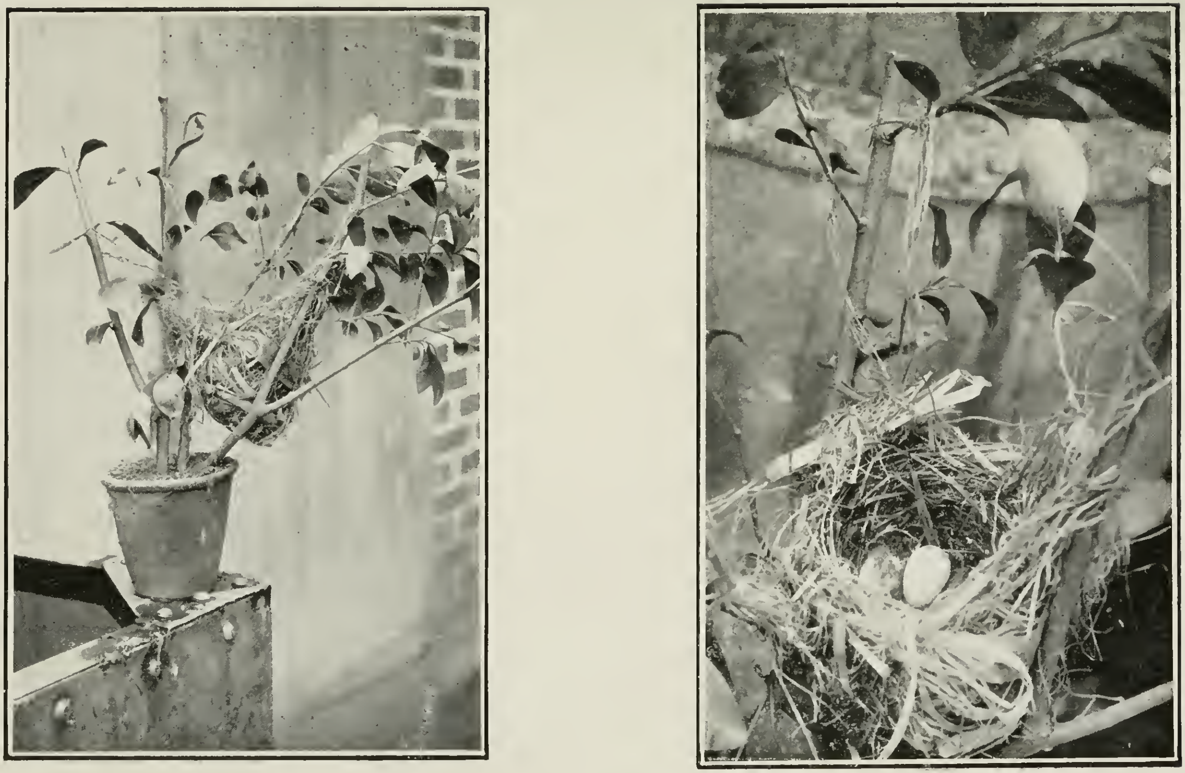
Apart from these obvious and hopeless defects the shelters had good points. To each flight there were two shelters with a service passage between them. By a simple overhead wire-work tunnel one could have either two entirely separate flights, or by letting down a sliding door at one end of the tunnel let the birds fly from one flight to the other. In this way one could always keep a hopeless bully by himself, or


DOOR
A
X. MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF FLIGHT
X

SHELTER FRONT ELEVATION


SHELTER
DOOR A
FLIGHT
WIRE NETTING ROOF

SIDE ELEVATION.



Nest and Eggs of Pekin Robin.

with other bullies, an advantage I often availed myself of. I am so pleased with this arrangement that I introduced it wherever possible into all my aviaries.

Now as to the flight only one word can describe it, and that is *bad*. Roomy, yes, but having said that you have said all. It was thickly planted and had a nice piece of grass for the birds to revel in, which, by the way, they generally did when they were going to die. To be perpetually cutting the grass disturbs the birds and may even decapitate a nesting Waxbill. Most birds have no use for thick rank grass. A well cut lawn is another matter, but how many of us can afford the room and money to enclose a lawn in our aviaries? And so my nice little grass-edged pathways and my dear little grass patch for the birds were in plain language a " wash-out." I have by me an indifferent photograph of the aviary as at first constructed, and I am inclined to think if it had been left at that my birds would have prospered better. But the plenty of natural cover fiend had laid me by the heels, and, like Adam, I did take the apple and did eat. My one idea was to plant so thickly as to hide the birds, but they were most unappreciative, and the thicker the cover grew the less they seemed to like it. With one or two rather notable exceptions very few young were fully reared in this aviary. The one brilliant exception was the rearing of young Pekin Robins. A photograph of their nest is here shown. Please don't think they built in a tree growing in a flower pot. The nest was removed with the privet branches (after the young had flown) to be photographed, and an egg or eggs were obtained from a previous nest, but one which they had deserted. The illustration shows the wonderful way the nest was suspended, and although so fragile in appearance never showed any signs of giving way. A sad fate befell the young birds. When I broke up my collection and sold the birds, their new owner fed them on canary seed and then complained that they died soon after he had them. I wonder what he *expected* they would do while their internal economy underwent the necessary changes to accommodate them to their diet. It reminded one forcibly of the story of the old miser who complained that just as he was training his horse to eat wooden shavings by giving it green spectacles " the silly animal went and died!"

No, aviculture is not a one man science, and doubtless the next few years will see great changes, just as the last few years have. We are still in the experimental stage, and just at present the avian Spartan has the field. But at this point a shiver runs through me, and having a say in my domestic economy I shall order a fire tomorrow. What about the birds? " Oh, they like it " is the reply. I wonder if they do any more than we do. Who would remain in dreary England if the sunshine of Africa were theirs for the asking. I do plead for our feathered pets that they at least receive the comfort that we ourselves are so anxious to get. And they have no woollv garments to don in winter; no cosy fireplace to sit over; no piping hot coffee to warm them ere they start on the day's toil; no baked potatoes to warm the cockles of their little hearts. Have you ever sat in a cold, often draughty, waiting room with your coat collar turned up—your hands enshrouded in wet gloves, a piece of sickly chocolate to stay the pangs of hunger—then at long length the train rolls up—after that a dragged out journey, finally blowing into a cold draughty tent, *sans* fire, *sans* a hot drink, and *sans* everything? If you have, you can sympathise with the wee birdies who nestle up to each other to keep warm, and tuck their little noses under their wings so that the air they breathe shall have the nip taken off. Misery is written all over their bodies, but we are told they are " quite hardy " and enjoy it—about as much as the fox enjoys the chase. To my mind it is a refined form of cruelty, and nothing will ever persuade me it is humane even if it is true that most foreign birds do not *require* heat. True, but neither do you *require* heat in the winter, but I'll wager that by hook or by crook you manage to get it all the same. To provide warmth for my birds I would willingly forego my cigarettes, and that to one who has been in the army is saying a lot.

I am afraid I have commenced by writing my reminiscences and ended up with a Caudle lecture. May it not fall on deaf ears. With these words I will end another diatribe worthy of the gloomy dean.

To be continued.

Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 184).

STRIGIDAE.

429.—BARN OWL. *Strix flammea.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905.

◆

ANATIDAE.

430.—WHOOPER SWAN. *Cygnus cygnus.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
WHOOPER × WHISTLING SWAN. W.T.P.
,, × TRUMPETER SWAN. W.T.P.

◆

431.—WHISTLING SWAN. *C. columbianus.*
Hybrids.
× Whistling Swan (Whooper Swan).

◆

432.—TRUMPETER SWAN. *C buccinator.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
× Trumpeter Swan (Whooper Swan).

◆

433.—COMMON SWAN. *C. olor.* **W.T.P.**
The domestic breed.

◆

434.—BLACK-NECKED SWAN. *C. melanocoryphus.* **W.T.P.**

◆

435.—BLACK SWAN. *Chenopsis atrata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1904, '05, etc., and elsewhere.
Hybrids.
BLACK SWAN × DOMESTIC GOOSE.
Abroad, W.T.P. C.

◆

436.—SPURWING GOOSE. *Plectropterus gambensis.*
Hybrids.
× Spurwing Goose (Egyptian Goose).

437.—MUSCOVY DUCK. *Cairina moschata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo. See reports for 1905, 1911, etc.
HYBRIDS.
× Muscovy Duck (Wild Duck).

◆

438.—SUMMER DUCK. *Lampronessa sponsa.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo and elsewhere.
HYBRIDS.
SUMMER DUCK × GADWALL. W.T.P.
× Summer Duck (Wild Duck).

◆

439.—MANDARIN DUCK. *Aex galericulata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo and elsewhere.
HYBRIDS.
× Mandarin Duck (Wild Duck).

◆

440.—CAPE BARREN GOOSE. *Cereopsis novae-hollandiae.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1909, etc.

◆

441.—COSCOROBA SWAN. *Coscoroba coscoroba.*
In the *Ibis*, 1916, p. 480. Blaauw refers to a chick bred at Woburn.

◆

442.—BLUE-WINGED SNOW-GOOSE. *Chen caerulescens.* **W.T.P.**
HYBRIDS.
BLUE-WINGED SNOW-GOOSE × GREATER SNOW-GOOSE. W.T.P.
,, ,, × LESSER SNOW-GOOSE. W.T.P.
Zoo, 1910.
× Blue-winged Snow-Goose (Chinese Goose).

◆

443.—LESSER SNOW-GOOSE. *C. hyperboreus.*
HYBRIDS.
× Lesser Snow-Goose (Blue-winged Snow-Goose).

◆

444.—GREATER SNOW-GOOSE. *C. nivalis.*
HYBRIDS.
× Greater Snow-Goose (Blue-winged Snow-Goose).

445.—ROSS SNOW-GOOSE. *Exanthemops rossi.*
Abroad, Blaauw. One chick lived 14 days in 1902.
See *Ibis*, 1903, 245. Success in 1904, see *Ibis*, 1905, 137.

◆

446.—DOMESTIC GOOSE.
Hybrids.
DOMESTIC GOOSE × EGYPTIAN GOOSE. Vale.
,, ,, × CHINESE GOOSE. Vale. " fertile offspring."
× Domestic Goose (Black Swan).
× Domestic Goose (Chinese Goose).
× Domestic Goose (Canadian Goose).

◆

447.—WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. *Anser albifrons.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
× White-fronted Goose (Bernacle Goose).

◆

448.—DWARF GOOSE. *A. erythropus.*
Hybrids.
DWARF GOOSE × BERNACLE GOOSE. W.T.P.

◆

449.—PINK-FOOTED GOOSE. *A. brachyrhynchus.* **W.T.P.**

◆

450.—BAR-HEADED GOOSE. *Eulabia indica.*
Hybrids.
BAR-HEADED GOOSE × SHELDUCK.
Vale. " *Anser indicus* × Shelduck, in evidence at the S.K. Museum,"
†Vale.
× Bar-headed Goose (Bernacle Goose).

◆

451.—CHINESE GOOSE. *Cygnopsis cygnoides.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905, etc.
Hybrids.
CHINESE GOOSE × CANADIAN GOOSE.
W.T.P. Vale.
CHINESE GOOSE × BLUE-WINGED SNOW-GOOSE.
W.T.P
CHINESE GOOSE × DOMESTIC GOOSE.
†Bartlett. " hybrids fertile." (Animals in Captivity, p. 217).
× Chinese Goose (Egyptian Goose).

452.—EMPEROR GOOSE. *Philacte canagica.*
Abroad. 1st Blaauw. Holland, 1915. See A.M. 1916, p. 278.

◇

453.—CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
CANADA GOOSE × "Italian White Goose," i.e. DOMESTIC GOOSE. W.T.P.
× Canada Goose (Chinese Goose).

◇

454.—HUTCHINS' GOOSE. *B. hutchinsi.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
× Hutchins' Goose (Bernacle Goose).

◇

455.—BERNACLE GOOSE. *B. leucopsis.* **W.T.P.**
Hybrids.
BERNACLE × BAR-HEADED GOOSE. W.T.P.
,, × HUTCHINS' GOOSE. W.T.P.
,, × WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. W.T.P.
× Bernacle (Dwarf Goose).

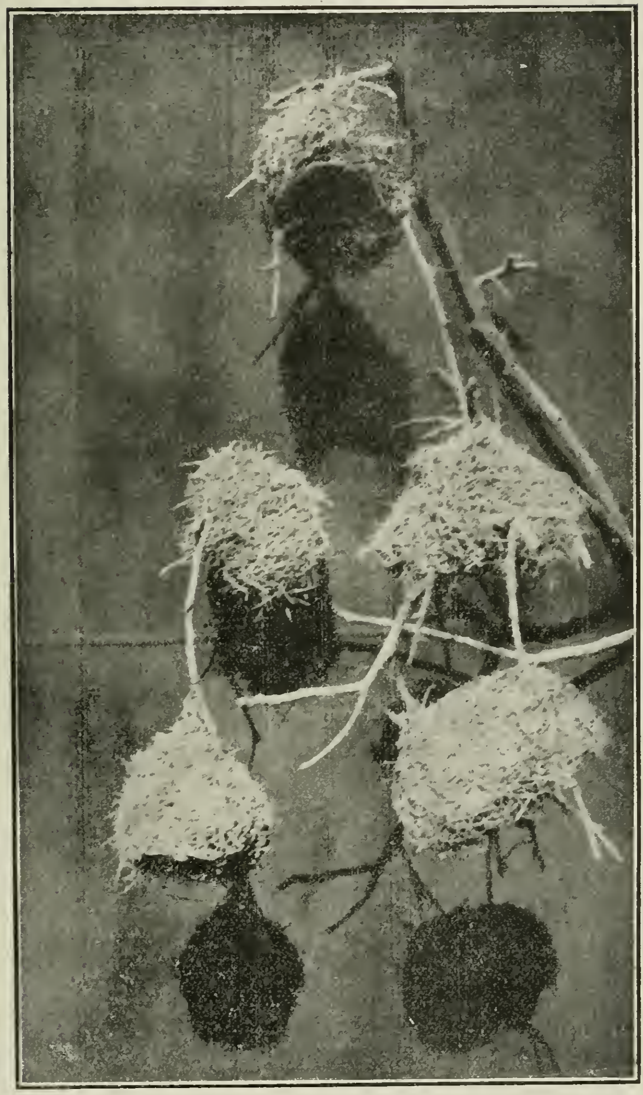
To be continued.

My Weavers—Past and Present.

By S. Williams, F.Z.S.

Returning home after my summer holiday it was quite a natural thing to visit my aviary and see how the birds had fared during my absence. Although, having left a friend in charge who was competent to attend to them, I wished to satisfy myself all was well.

Standing by the flight and smoking my pipe in the sunshine my thoughts wandered back to pre-war days. I was then the proud possessor of a very fine, if not the best collection of Weavers and Whydahs owned at one time by any aviculturist. Twenty different varieties of Weavers and six varieties of Whydahs were enjoying themselves in my garden aviary. Several rare species were in this collection, viz: —



Weavers' Nests constructed in Mr. S. Williams' Aviary.

WEAVERS.—The Great All Black, Sparrow *(Plocepasser mahali)*, Bronze Abyssinian *(Cinnamopteryx rubiginosa)*, Black-bellied *(P. nigriventris)*, Manyar *(Ploceus manyar)*, Golden-backed, and one which I have not been able to definitely identify, but believe to be the Princes Island Weaver. Between these and the more common species were three cock Red-headed *(Quelea erythrocephala)*, two cock Black-headed *(Hyphantornis melanocephala)*, one Half-masked *(H. brachyptera)*, two Baya Weavers *(Ploceus baya)*, two Taha Weavers *(Pyromelana taha)*, four cock Crimson-crowned *(P. flavorniceps)*, one superb specimen of Russ's Weaver *(Quelea russi)*, the albino form of *Quelea quelea*. This bird lived with me for about seven years. One cock Grenadier *(Pyromelana oryx)*, one Yellowish, and two pairs of Rufous-necks *(Hyphantornis cucullata)*; while representing the common kinds were a pair of Red-billed *(Quelea quelea)*, a pair of Napoleon *(Pyromelana afra)*, several Orange Bishops *(P. franciscana)*, one Madagascar *(Fondia madagascariensis)*, a Comoro Weaver *(Nesacanthis eminentissima)*. I think my readers will agree with me when I say this collection was one to be proud of. At the time of writing my Weavers are three—the old Grenadier cock, seven years old; a hen Red-billed, nearly ten years old and still as fit as the day I bought her; and my cock Golden-backed, four and a half years old. Difficulty of getting food, and being very little at home during the war forced me to sell many. Others went West, and three or four escaped.

Those who have had much to do with the Weavers may possibly have noticed these birds seem to be subject to fainting fits; my Black, Red-heads, Half-masked, and Rufous-necks, when suddenly alarmed or very excited would occasionally roll over on the floor and lay quite stiff, but when picked up and a little cold water dropped in the bill or even their entire head plunged into water, soon recovered, but were a little unsteady for a while. I only had one die from this cause. That was my Half-masked; this bird came to me from, I believe, our member, Miss Chawner, and I think, if I recollect rightly, she had a similar experience with him.

Now if you were to ask me which was my favourite weaver, I should say the Sparrow Weaver. This bird died after laying three eggs, rather late in the year; so far as I know she never made any attempt at nesting during the four previous years I had her. This was the tamest Weaver I ever had. As soon as I entered the shelter and got down the box in which I kept the mealworms, she was on my hand. As I write these notes the stuffed body stands on my desk. So well has the taxidermist done his work that it seems she is only waiting for you to offer her a mealworm to fly down as in days gone by. The Black-heads, Rufous-necks, and Crimson-crowns would all eat from my hand, but were not of the same confiding nature as the Sparrow Weaver. As regards beauty, tastes differ. The brilliant scarlet-black of the Grenadier (Oryx Weaver) and the Crimson-crowned certainly catch the eye, but then so does the gold-black of the Napoleon and Black-headed Weavers. Again look at a cock Rufous-neck in full colour; here you have yellow-black, with a warm red-brown and different shades of greenish-yellow, all blended together so exquisitely that a specimen in good health, with a beautiful sheen on its feathers, and if it were not for his wicked reddish eye, which does not miss even the smallest spider or mealworm you throw on the floor, seems to be carved in marble. Then again, who does not express delight when they see a cock Madagascar Weaver in full colour for the first time. This little fellow, about the size of a linnet, and a brilliant scarlet all over, perched amid the green leaves of the plants in the open flight, rivals the choice exotic blooms of the East.

Before passing on to the Whydahs, who also have, so to speak, two suits, one during the breeding season, which is resplendent with colour or an abnormal length of tail plumes, and a dowdy dress for winter; allow me to say a few words on this transformation. Nothing to my mind is more interesting in the bird world than to watch the Weavers, and especially the Bishops and allied species, coming into colour. One day you go to the aviary and find your birds in winter dress of brown or fawn shades all over; then the head and neck starts showing scarlet spots amid the brown. If you have not seen your birds for a few days you think at first glance there has been a battle royal and they are bleeding, but watch carefully and you see the scarlet gradually spreading until your dowdy little sparrow-like bird is transformed into a blaze of crimson or yellow. The parts which are ultimately black, you will notice, seem to start under the belly and gradually turn colour after the style of a piece of blotting paper dipped in the ink, only, of course, not with the same rapidity. It is worth keeping a few of these birds in order to observe this remarkable change. Here is nature in her quiet way "knocking spots off" the conjurer; with him it is the quickness of the hand deceives the eye; here a more marvellous thing is being done, and yet you can watch the gradual process taking place, and you see less even than sometimes you do of the tricks on the stage.

Now we come to the nests of the Weavers. It is owing to the marvellous way they build or weave that they get their name, Weavers; most certainly, these birds are past masters in the art of weaving. If you examine a nest thoroughly, either one of the smaller kinds of a globular form or the larger one of the Hyphantornine group, you will be struck by the beauty of construction; one would think a compass had been used, so wonderfully proportioned are they. You look at our fine buildings and say that was a good architect who designed that, but remember, years of study were required first, and here we have a little bird, with never a lesson, and only the brain, or is it instinct, which is given him by his Creator; yet his work is true in proportion and beautiful. I have had ten of these nests hanging from the wirework and tree branches in the aviary at the same time. Although I have watched them building scores of times I am never tired of seeing them at work. Many a time has a friend come to see me and we have gone down to the aviary together; some were bird lovers, others people who never take any notice of birds, but all agree that it is astounding how they manage with but a little grass or hay to construct their nests!

Up to the present my breeding, or I should say rearing, successes have been nil. Sixteen young Weavers have been hatched in my aviary, but none lived more than fourteen days.

Possibly the cocks, which outnumbered the hens by four to one, were the cause. When I restock I shall try and get true pairs only. Possibly better luck will then attend me.

WHYDAHS.—The Whydah family were represented by six varieties:—Paradise *(Steganura paradisea)* Pintail *(Vidua principalis)*, Golden-backed *(Penthetriopsis macrura)*, White-winged *(Coliostruthus albonotata)*, Red-shouldered *(Coliopasser axillaris)*, and Jackson's *(Depranoplectes jacksoni)*.

This little group I am not going to say more about now, but will reserve it for another article in the near future.

The staple food used in the aviary was white millet, also Indian millet, canary, hemp, and charlock; a small dish of sop made of stale crust or cake, Nestle's milk, and warm water was much liked. Ants' eggs and wasps' grubs, when procurable, were a great relish, either fresh or dried, and also smooth caterpillars. If, however, you wanted to win the hearts of your little feathered friends, then nothing will do it quicker than to offer them mealworms or spiders. Ripe fruit, such as plums, oranges or bananas were freely taken, also given food, such as would be given to our British birds or canaries.

Do not feed your birds from one large seed tray; place half a dozen in different parts of the aviary, so as to enable your birds to feed without crowding. It is when they all try to feed at once that fighting occurs, especially with the Weavers, but, taken as a whole, the character usually given them of being spiteful I consider a libel; at nesting time all birds are apt to be spiteful to others. During the number of years I have kept Whydahs I haye only had two or three birds which proved a nuisance in the aviary, and, as a few canaries were flying low with them and only one accident occurred, I think this is enough proof; mischievous they may be and are, but then so is the Zebra Finch.

If you think of keeping a few Weavers, start with pairs; forget about the bad name they have been given, and judge for yourself as to their character. I shall be much surprised if you do not find they compare very favourably with other orders of birds in this respect.

The Breeding of Goldfinch Himalayan Siskin Hybrids.

By W. Shore Baily.

In these days when our aviaries are more or less empty, it is something to be able to record even one breeding success. Strange to say this has been with me almost a repetition of one of my very early successes, the breeding of a Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin, for which I received the F.B.C. medal, see B.N., 1914. This time the male was an English Goldfinch, and the five young hybrids are quite different from the bird figured in B.N., 1915, being much slighter in build and brighter in colour. These youngsters, with the exception of a few Zebra Finches, were the only small birds bred here this season, none of the others having attempted to nest. With the larger birds we were rather more successful, having fully reared four Bronze-wing Doves, four Peaceful Doves, four Necklace × Senegal Dove hybrids, eight Diamond Doves, 11 Californian Quail (from two pairs), and 11 Horned Guinea Fowl *(Numida cornuta)*. The Himalayan Siskins have always been favourites here; two years ago two young ones were reared, the first time in Great Britain I believe. These young birds, when in their nesting plumage, were quite different from two young Sikhim Siskins, that I got from Mr. Teschemaker the same season. This gentleman has bred the Sikhims very freely I understand.

In B.N. 1914 both varieties are described as follows:—*C. spinoides*, male, above greenish-olivaceous-brown; forehead variable according to age, black, or black and yellow, or nearly all yellow; crown, nape, ear-coverts, and part of cheeks, black tinged with green; lores sides of face, sides of neck, band across back of neck, rump and the whole of the under parts rich canary-yellow; upper tail-coverts greenish-brown; tail, two central feathers deep brown, the others more or less yellow; wings, dusky black; greater-coverts, tipped with yellow; and the quills with a broad patch of yellow on the outer webs, and tipped and margined with white. Total length, 5 inches, tail just under 2.

C. tibetana, male, above olive-green; the back and mantle streaked with black with a greenish tinge; streaks above and

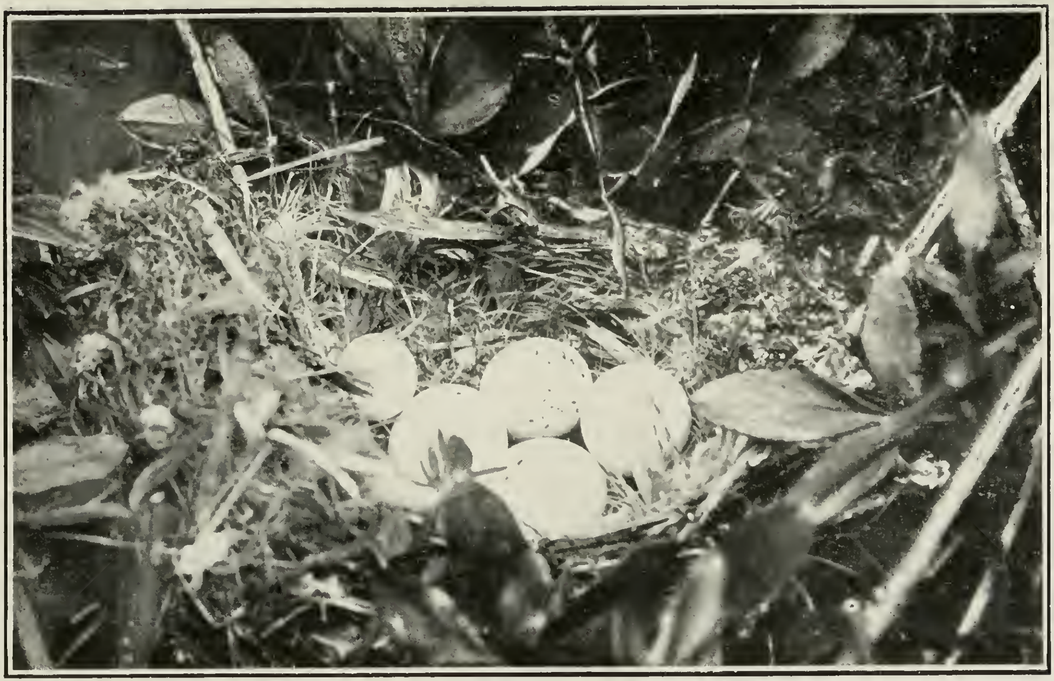


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Goldfinch × Himalayan Siskin.

below the eye, chin, throat and breast, bright yellow; abdomen and under tail-coverts duller yellow; sides of body yellowish green streaked with brown; ear-coverts and moustachial streaks olive-green; lesser and median wing-coverts olive-green; greater wing-coverts, brown tipped and margined with yellow; quills, brown; outer webs margined with olive-green. Total length 4¼ inches, tail 1⅝ inches. The hens in both species are lighter in colour. The young *C. tibetana* were very much darker than the young *C. spinoides*, the hen in particular showing very little yellow. The Goldfinch hybrids in shape resemble their father, but are slightly larger. In colour they are a pale grey, streaked on both breast and back with a darker shade of the same colour. Two bars of black, and two of buffish yellow, across the wings, give them quite a pretty appearance, especially when viewed from above.

The first nest was built on the top of a conifer in the month of July ,and being close to the wire roof it was impossible to get a photo of either it or the young ones. The second nest was more accessible as the accompanying photo shows. Two young were reared from the first, and three from the second nest, and I think that when they are in full plumage they should be very pretty birds.

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The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Continued from page 180).

Sparrows.—This group are very interesting aviary birds, and though some of the species are noisy and self-assertive, I have not found them to interfere materially with the other occupants of the aviary. The species which come within the scope of this article are:

* Yellow Sparrow *(Passer luteus)*.
Grey-headed Sparrow *(P. diffusus)*.
Cinnamon Tree Sparrow *(P. cinnamomeus)*.
* House Sparrow *(P. domesticus)*.
* Tree Sparrow *(P. montanus)*.

Yellow-throated Sparrow *(Gymnorhis flavicollis).*
Cape Sparrow *(Passer arcuata).*
* Grey Java Sparrow *(Munia oryzivora).*
* White Java Sparrow *(M. oryzivora var. alba).*

Those marked with an asterisk in above list have successfully reared young in my aviaries.

The ordinary finch seed menu will meet the need of this group, but all of them will take as many insects as "come their way." When feeding young a considerable amount of the insectile mixture is eaten. If live insects are supplied liberally at this period, the successful rearing of their young is assured.

Yellow Sparrow.—The male of this species is a beautiful bird, a conspicuous object and an adornment to any aviary. Mr. D. Seth-Smith was the first to breed it in this country, and since then several aviculturists have met with similar success. Mr. R. Suggitt has bred quite a few of them, and young have been successfully reared in my aviaries on several occasions, and in one instance an odd male in my aviary paired off with a hen Tree Sparrow, and two young hybrids were successfully reared. Both in contour, size and plumage *P. luteus* was dominant in the young hybrids, one of which, a female, lived to reach maturity; it closely resembled the female *luteus*, but was a little browner and the yellow areas were smaller and less brilliant.

If one is successful in obtaining a pair with an inclination to breed then they are free breeders, but this cannot be said of every pair.

I have found it hardy and enduring and quite capable of being wintered out of doors.

Grey-headed Sparrow.—This species, though I have successfully wintered it out of doors on several occasions, I do not consider so robust and enduring as *P. luteus*, especially if the autumn and winter prove abnormally wet. Hard frost does not appear to affect them, though their toes may be frost-bitten if they roost out.

Mr. D. Seth Smith has successfully bred this species, and in my aviary two young birds lived to fend for themselves, but died during the moult, which was late and the autumn very wet and cold, they were hatched rather late in the season.

In my opinion the Grey-head must be classed as an occasional breeder.

The young were almost entirely reared upon live insects, gentles and mealworms, plus flies, etc., captured in the aviary.

Cinnamon Tree-Sparrow.—I have never bred this species, but Mr. W. E. Teschemaker successfully bred one or two broods, and it may safely be classed as a probable breeder.

From my own experience and what I gleaned from Mr. Teschemaker's account of his success, I do not think young would be successfully reared, unless live insects were liberally supplied, during the time they were being fed in the nest.

House Sparrow.—I need not linger over this species, which I bred at the first attempt, but as soon as the young were able to fend for themselves I released them, as I had no desire to repeat the experiment.

I should say they would breed freely in any roomy outdoor aviary, but few will make the attempt, for, as a fellow aviculturist remarked at the time, breeding the House Sparrow was about as useful as breeding the common mouse.

Tree Sparrow.—This is a more attractive species, and success less easily obtained than with the preceding species. On and off I have had five or six pairs, but only on one occasion did a pair go to nest with me. One young bird was reared and lived for several years. It was reared entirely upon live food.

I did not repeat the experiment, as the following season, with a few exceptions, I cleared the aviaries of British species.

A probable but not a free breeder in captivity.

Yellow-throated Sparrow.—A pretty and interesting species, but they are not often on the market, and have never appeared in large numbers.

It has not bred in my aviaries, and in my opinion is not a free breeder in captivity.

I also consider it is better taken indoors for the winter months, as, though one male lived six years with me, out of doors all the year round, abnormal wet or abnormal severity is liable to carry them off.

Better for a liberal supply of live insects at all periods of the year.

Cape Sparrow.—This species has not bred in my aviaries, but it has been successfully bred by Mr. D. Seth Smith and others—it may be classed as a prolific breeder.

It is a very handsome and attractive species, not brightly coloured, but its white, brown and black plumage is pleasingly and contrastily arranged.

Amiable, hardy and enduring; very fond of live insects.

Java Sparrows.—These picturesque and attractive birds are very conspicuous objects in a large garden aviary, the White variety even more so than the species.

I have bred quite a few Grey Javas, and also many of the White form at various times.

A good many pairs of Grey Javas show no inclination to go to nest at all, but once a breeding pair is secured they are quite prolific.

The White form is very ready to go to nest and rear young, and a free breeding strain can be produced by mating a White hen with an imported Grey cock, and then remating the females of their progeny with imported males, and the resulting young, from the latter mating, I have found very ready to go to nest when properly housed and not overcrowded.

The result of mating Grey with White is ninety per cent. or more of pure Grey young, but a little lighter in hue than imported birds. Very few pied specimens are produced. When the young of such cross mating are paired back again to imported Greys their progeny cannot be distinguished from imported birds.

In conclusion, I would add, that what few pied birds are thrown, these are usually very handsome and attractive.

Java Sparrows are usually amiable in a roomy aviary, but less so in confined quarters. As with other species individuals of aggressive and bullying temperament are not unknown.

I have recently renewed my acquaintance with this species, and at present have four pairs in my large aviary.

They are very hardy and enduring.

(To be continued).

Obituary.

HERBERT GOODCHILD.

We much regret to announce the death of this talented artist. The sense of loss to most of our members will be almost a personal one, as, with very few exceptions, all the coloured plates which have adorned past volumes of B.N. have been from his brush; and very many of our monochrome plates were also evidences of his skill. As a delineator of birds he had very few rivals and certainly none excelled him. The feather technique of his drawings was certainly unrivalled.

His loss is an aftermath of the awful five years of war, during which he worked, much beyond his powers of endurance, on munitions unceasingly. In his weakened state a chill caused pleurisy and other complications which terminated fatally on October 4th.

He had been a member of F.B.C. almost from its inception; he was also a keen ornithologist, and knew our native birds, both by sight and ear, as few do.

He was a genial and interesting companion, and will be much missed by many, by all who knew him well. His death leaves a void which will not be readily filled. W.T.P.

Correspondence.

THE SEASON 1919.

Sir,—Like other aviculturists I have had many less birds than in pre-war times, so that, on the whole, I do not complain of the results.

Cockateels: My pair of this pleasing and interesting species has done well.

1st brood 4 eggs, 2 young fully reared.

2nd brood 8 eggs, 5 young fully reared.

The young birds are now all flying around in good style. They are in an enclosure by themselves. The pair have now (September 21st) gone to nest for the third time; do not at present know the number of eggs in this clutch.

Masked Weaver × Greenfinch Hybrid: At the early part of the year a cock Masked Weaver and a hen Greenfinch mated, constructed a nest, at least the hen did, of the ordinary greenfinch-type: four eggs were laid, of which only one hatched out.

The young hybrid is now fully reared, of the same size as his father (Masked Weaver), and squat in shape; the beak is heavy and bronze-green in colour. (If Mr. Croker will write out the whole story with as full details as possible, he will be entitled to the Club's breeding medal.—Ed.).

ANOTHER CROSS-MATING: An odd Indian Ring-neck mated up with my Quaker Parrakeet hen, but there has been no result therefrom. They built a fine large nest (Quaker Parrakeet type) in the old place, but although they mated up satisfactorily, there was no result, neither were there any dropped eggs. They had an aviary to themselves, so cannot account for it.

The Horsefield's Whistling-Thrush is still "going strong," but at present he is in the moult.

We have hand-reared a nest (four) of Jays; all of these are very fit and doing well. They were very little trouble to rear and are easily kept birds if given a varied dietary, which is easily done.

Lower Bourne, Farnham, September 21st, 1919. C. E. CROKER.

◆

1919 NESTING NOTES.

SIR,—It may interest my fellow members to hear the result of breeding successes in my aviary this year.

Several young Diamond Doves fully reared, and parent birds incubating another clutch of eggs.

Several young Bengalese fully reared.

One young Rosella Parrakeet fully reared.

My Rosellas went to nest, and the whole clutch of five eggs were duly hatched out. One of the young, several days younger than the others, died when about a month old; when six weeks old two others, fully feathered, died; of the remaining two one was crippled and had to be destroyed; the other duly left the nest and is doing well. I can't make out why the other two died. It it usual for them to stay in the nest so long? * Perhaps they could not get out. The nest-box was rather large and deep. I fed them on soaked bread, crushed oats, hemp, millet, and canary seeds. The two that died seemed quite strong, well developed birds.

I have now (August 22nd) got a Bullfinch just hatched out (is it not very late for them?) and two young ones.

Elm House, Nantwich. MRS. M. A. SPROSTON.

* The age of leaving the nest is about normal, and I do not consider the nest-box the cause of death, as when inclined they would be able to climb out. Should say disease was cause of death, even though the young birds were plump.—ED.

AN ESCAPED RING-NECK PARRAKEET.

SIR,—It may interest some member to know that, last Wednesday, October 8th, at about 4-30 p.m., I heard a strange, but familiar bird cry high overheard; looking up I recognised what was obviously a Ring-neck Parrakeet flying very fast, and some 200-300 feet high in a westerly direction; i.e. over Eton and towards Maidenhead. Probably the bird has now been caught, and this notice may possibly come under the eye of the finder or loser of the bird.

(Dr.) MAURICE AMSLER.

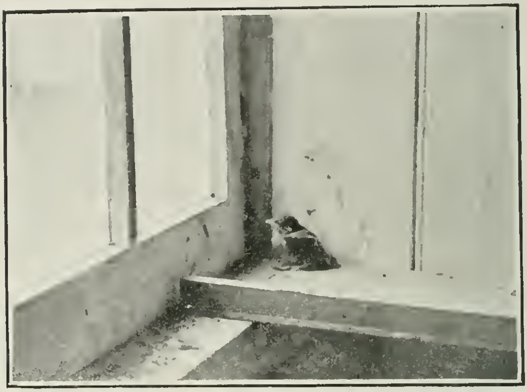

Photo E. O. Page.

Nestling Bearded Tit.

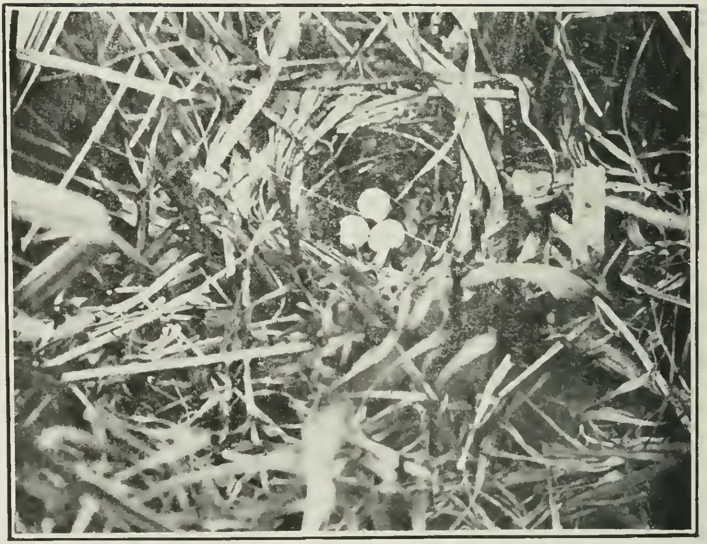

Photo E. O. Page.

Nest and Eggs of Bearded Tit.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Reminiscences.

By Dr. L. Lovell Keays, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 204).

On looking back to a somewhat meteoric career as an aviculturist I am often asked what I considered my most successful achievement. Unhesitatingly I should say the breeding of Bearded Reedlings (*Panurus biarmicus*). The birds themselves are perhaps the most charming of all our British soft-bills, and, contrary to the experience of many aviculturists I found them very easy to keep. Newly imported birds are a bother sometimes, but once they settle down nothing seems to ail them. Their diet is simple, viz: a good insectile mixture, a good few mealworms and a roomy cage or flight. They are inveterate bathers, and certainly do not require *heat*, although they do appreciate a warm shelter, and thrive better if kept in a frost-proof place. The cock bird is most amusing, and is very keen on displaying his eastern-looking moustaches to his mate, an attention that does not seem to arouse any great degree of enthusiasm on her part. Certainly, in the non-breeding season several pairs can be kept in a good-sized cage, and in the breeding season I have kept them in a small aviary where at least three pairs shared the aviary, and I have never noticed any inclination to real quarrelling. The hens are the most attractive, demure little creatures imaginable. When my ship comes home I shall most certainly keep Bearded Reedlings again, and I can recommend them to other aviculturists as an ideal aviary bird. Their antics never cease to amuse one, and they perform feats worthy of the Hoatzin. The way they climb up reeds is positively amazing with their little legs straddled out, one foot on one reed and the other on another. Nothing alive escapes their little beady eyes, and they are never still for one moment. But, although full of confidence, I have never found them extraordinarily tame. Like all soft-bills they would sell their wee souls for a mealworm, and I have known many of them readily eat banana. I think there is little doubt that the young are fed on some plant life which they obtain from stagnant water—some form of *alga* perhaps. At any rate, if anybody should think of keeping them the banana diet would probably prove very beneficial. People tell you they have fits and must not be given too many mealworms. Possibly that is so, but how many people think of a contributory cause, such as, a stuffy room, or lack of exercise, or of a corrective in the diet such as banana. Another thing they love is crumbled Yorkshire cheese. For this wonderful advice I am indebted to Mr. Galloway, who, I should say, is perhaps one of the most skilled of British bird-keepers of the age, and a most interesting man to meet. Yorkshire cheese is a splendid article of diet for all birds, and most of them are very fond of it. But how seldom you see it on the avian menu.

I kept Bearded Reedlings for about three years and never wearied of them. The first season I was all but successful in breeding them, but " very nearly never killed a man " or reared a young bird. The next season they made no mistake, and fully reared three of the sweetest little birds you could meet in a day's march. I never kept them through the next moult, but gave them to Mr. Frostick when I " joined up." The sexes were quite indistinguishable several weeks, if not months after they left the nest. Mine were bred in a travelling cage, but a beautiful nest was built in the rushes, a photograph of which is here shown. The camera was pointed down into the nest, making the eggs appear round, whereas they are quite oval. The natural nest is composed entirely of the leaves of the reeds with a slight lining of fine grass. The eggs are usually five in number and white with very faint tracings of brown. If my memory serves me aright the hen does all the incubating, and the cock feeds the hen on the nest. Both parents feed the young. But one pretty incident occurred in rearing the young. The hen preferred to feed the babies herself, and when daddy brought any food for the babies she would take the morsel from his beak, examine it, and, if she approved, give it to the babies herself. If unsuitable she would eat it. The young were reared almost entirely on quite small mealworms, which were without their brown skins. At the same time the diet was supplemented by large numbers of midges, flies, etc., and the hen most certainly found something in a pool of stagnant water, for I have noted the fact most carefully on several occasions. A photograph of one baby Reedling, taken most skilfully by Mr. E. O. Page, is given, but it will be noticed that the tail is short and stumpy and not long as in the adult. In fact the tail grows very slowly. The event to me was a veritable triumph, and I was most disappointed to find that several years before some aviculturist had bred them on a large enclosed natural lake, but had never *recorded* the incident. And I believe no notes had been taken of the event, and so the club medal was never granted. In this aviary were also bred Chaffinches. One would think that *anybody* could breed Chaffiinches, but I believe I am correct in saying that apart from the E. Hoathly aviaries Mr. Croker is the only other person who has done so. They are very easy to breed up to a certain point, but then something goes wrong, and the young birds all die. On two occasions I reared young, and the last bird to leave the aviaries when they were pulled down was one of these young birds, and it haunted the aviary without a roof for two or three days.

Another difficult bird to rear is the Yellow-Hammer. Why it became corrupted to Hammer I can't say. I believe that the word is derived from the German *Ammer*, meaning Finch, but I am open to correction.

The Yellow Bunting, I believe, is still a potential medal winner. Personally, I have never got farther than eggs, but the Cripples' Home aviaries all but fully reared it in 1913 or 1914.

I tried very hard at breeding Long-tailed Tits, but without the smallest success. In the absence of the sheep's wool and spider-webs, etc., which seem to be necessary, I imagined they would take to a long hollowed-out log, but the aviculturist who breeds Long-tailed Tits certainly deserves a silver medal. As an aviary bird they are absolutely delightful, but very difficult to keep in a large aviary. In a small aviary I never found any difficulty. I have an idea they easily get lost and cannot find the necessary food, of which mealworms seem an absolute necessity. The fact that so many are reared at a time seems to indicate a very high mortality in a state of nature. They must be hardy, as one can see them in parties in the depth of winter. They are fairly common, too, in Salonica. They quickly become absurdly tame. But of all the birds I have ever kept Golden Crested Wrens become the tamest. They, too, need mealworms finely chopped up, and one has to be very careful or you will chop off their wee beaks or their filamentous toes in the process. Great care, too, is necessary in leaving the aviary, or you may find one or more perching on your shoulder when you go out. That once did happen, and next morning in the service passage I found a little fluffy corpse, for these birds die very quickly and require feeding at the very least twice a day. A couple of hours late in their morning meal will mean death to them when they can get no natural food. I think perhaps the Golden-crest is the most exquisite little bird in the world—possibly not in colour as in its wee-ness, its confiding nature and its general behaviour. Their little lives hang on a thread as slender as the web of a spider. But if you keep them and then contemplate going away, never leave them to a servant, however conscientious—far better let them go, for you will never see them alive again. A good deal of discussion has arisen as to the crest being erectile. That is strange, for the little cocks do it all day long in the breeding season. The sexes are easily distinguished, for the cock has an almost fiery-red crest, whereas the hen only possesses a yellow patch on the head. I have never seen a hen raise her crest. If you are prepared to take the trouble, these birds are not difficult to keep. I believe Mr. Galloway used to breed flies for his all the year round, for these wee mites are very fond of the common house fly, and as to spiders—they positively dote on them.

All the birds mentioned agree perfectly well together, but if you keep them together you must have some means of excluding the big birds from the food dish, or the "tinies" will get nothing and die. I would like to describe an apparatus I devised for this purpose, but time and space are limited, and that must be reserved for some future occasion.

In conclusion I would say that of all the birds I have ever had *none* have afforded me more joy and such infinite pleasure than the smaller British soft-bills. If I can ever afford to build a second aviary these charming Lilliputians shall not be forgotten. May the ship not tarry too long on its journey!

To be continued.

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

For meaning of abbreviations *vide* pages 58-59 (last vol.).

(Continued from page 208).

456.—SANDWICH ISLAND GOOSE. *Nesochen sandvicensis.* **W.T.P.**

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457.—UPLAND GOOSE. *Chloephaga magellanica.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1904 and later.

Hybrids.

× Upland Goose' (Ruddy-headed Goose).

◆

458.—RUDDY-HEADED GOOSE. *C. rubidiceps.* **W.T.P.**
Wormald, 1913. See A.M. (3) v. 335.
"A free breeder" †Astley, A.M. 1915, 357.

Hybrids.

RUDDY-HEADED GOOSE × UPLAND GOOSE. W.T.P.

Entered in Page's list with *Branta ruficollis* as the Latin name; no doubt a slip.

459.—CHESTNUT-BREASTED GOOSE. *C. poliocephala.* **W.T.P.**

◆

460.—MANED GOOSE. *Chenonetta jubata.* **W.T.P.**
1st Zoo, 1910, and see A.M. 1917, 210.
Abroad. Blaauw, Holland, 1905. See A.M. 1917, 158.

HYBRIDS.

MANED GOOSE × EGYPTIAN GOOSE. W.T.P.

◆

461.—WHITE-FACED TREE-DUCK. *Dendrocygna viduata.*
Mclean and Wormald, 1914. See Field, Jan. 16, 1915.

◆

462.—FULVOUS TREE-DUCK. *D. fulva.* **W.T.P.**

◆

463.—RED-BILLED TREE-DUCK. *D. autumnalis.* **W.T.P.**

◆

464.—EGYPTIAN GOOSE. *Alopochen aegyptiacus.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, and elsewhere.

HYBRIDS.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE × SPURWING GOOSE.
Abroad. W.T.P. C.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE × CHINESE GOOSE. W.T.P.
,, ,, × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × SHELDUCK. W.T.P.
× Egyptian Goose (Maned Goose).
× Egyptian Goose (Ruddy Shelduck).

◆

465.—SHELDUCK. *Tadorna tadorna.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1910.
HYBRIDS.

SHELDUCK × GREY-HEADED SHELDUCK. W.T.P.
,, × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.
× Shelduck (Egyptian Goose).

◆

466.—RUDDY SHELDUCK. *Casarca casarca.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo and elsewhere.

HYBRIDS.

RUDDY SHELDUCK × EGYPTIAN GOOSE. W.T.P.
,, ,, × GREY-HEADED SHELDUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × NEW ZEALAND SHELDUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × FALCATED DUCK. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
× Ruddy Shelduck (New Zealand Shelduck).

RUDDY × GREY-HEAD SHELDUCK HYBRID × GREY-HEADED SHELDUCK. W.T.P.

◆

467.—GREY-HEADED SHELDUCK. *C. cana.*
HYBRIDS.
× Grey-headed Shelduck (Shelduck).
× Grey-headed Shelduck (Ruddy Shelduck).
× Grey-headed Shelduck (Ruddy × Grey-head Shelduck Hybrid).

◆

463.—NEW ZEALAND SHELDUCK. *C. variegata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1910, 1911, etc.

HYBRIDS.

NEW ZEALAND SHELDUCK × RUDDY SHELDUCK. W.T.P.
× New Zealand Shelduck (Ruddy Shelduck).

◆

469.—AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK. *C. tadornoides.*
I can only find hybrid records, but feel fairly sure that it has been true-bred as well (E.H.).

HYBRIDS.

AUSTRALIAN SHELDUCK × BAR-HEADED GOOSE. W.T P.

470.—WILD DUCK. *Anas boscas.* **W.T.P.** Commonly bred.
Black Indian Duck (*A. boscas var.)* W.T.P., and other domestic breeds.

HYBRIDS.

WILD DUCK × MUSCOVY DUCK.
Abroad, W.T.P. C. "fertile hybrids" †Vale

WILD DUCK × SUMMER DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × MANDARIN DUCK, Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × MELLER'S DUCK. W.T.P. *
,, ,, × DUSKY DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK. W.T.P. *
,, ,, × YELLOW-BILLED DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × SPOT-BILLED DUCK. W.T.P. *
,, ,, × GADWALL. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × WIGEON. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × AMERICAN WIGEON. Abroad, W.T.P. C .
,, ,, × COMMON TEAL. Abroad, W.T.P. C. "fertile hybrids."
,, ,, × PINTAIL. W.T.P. "fertile hybrids" †Vale.
,, ,, × SHOVELLER. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, ,, × RED-CRESTED POCHARD. Vale's list.

"Penguin Drake" (i.e. *A .boscas var.*) × EGYPTIAN GOOSE. Vale's list.

× Wild Duck (Egyptian Goose).
× Wild Duck (Shelduck).
× Wild Duck (Meller's Duck).
× Wild Duck (Dusky Duck).
× Wild Duck (Yellow-billed Duck).
× Wild Duck (Gadwall).
× Wild Duck (Wigeon).
× Wild Duck (Pintail).
× Wild Duck (Rosy-billed Duck).

WILD × SPOTBILL HYBRID × MELLER'S DUCK. W.T.P. *
,, × ,, ,, × AUSTRALIAN WILD-MELLER'S HYBRID. W.T.P. *
,, × ,, ,, × AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK-PINTAIL HYBRID. W.T.P. *
,, × ,, ,, × PINTAIL × WILD HYBRID. W.T.P. * To the third generation, all fertile. †W.T.P.
,, × ,, ,, × AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK × PINTAIL × MELLER'S TRIGEN. § W.T.P. *

* Bred by Mr. Bonhote, †Page's list, p. 31.
§ Trigen, Bonhote's convenient name for such triple hybrids.

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471.—SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK DUCK. *A. sparsa.*
Abroad, 1st Blaauw, Holland. See A.M. 1917, 66.

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472.—DUSKY DUCK. *A. obscura.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1911.
HYBRIDS.
DUSKY DUCK × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, × DUSKY × WILD HYBRID. W.T.P.
,, ,, × YELLOW-BILLED DUCK. W.T.P.
× Dusky Duck (Wild Duck).
× Dusky Duck (Yellow-billed Duck).

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473.—MELLER'S DUCK. *A. melleri.*
HYBRIDS.
MELLER'S DUCK × WILD DUCK.
Zoo, 1904.
× Meller's (Australian Wild Duck)
× Meller's (Wild Duck).
× Meller's (Wild × Spotbill Hybrid).
× Meller's (Yellow-billed Duck).

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474.—AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK. *A. superciliosa.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1910, 1911.
HYBRIDS.
AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK × ROSY-BILLED DUCK. W.T.P.
,, ,, ,, × MELLER'S DUCK. A necessary preliminary to the cross (1) below.
,, ,, ,, × PINTAIL. ditto (2).
,, ,, ,, × PINTAIL × MELLER'S HYBRID. ditto (3).
× Australian Wild Duck × Meller's Hybrid (Wild Duck × Spotbill Hybrid) (1).
× Australian Wild Duck × Pintail Hybrid (Wild Duck × Spotbill Hybrid) (2).
× Australian Wild Duck × Pintail × Meller's Trigen (Wild Duck × Spotbill Hybrid) (3)
× Australian Wild Duck (Wild Duck).
× Australian Wild Duck (Chilian Pintail).

To be continued.

More Notes on Swainson's Lorikeets.

By Maurice Amsler, M.B., F.Z.S.

Sir Leo Chiozza Money's triumphs with his Swainson's Lorikeets have tempted me to add to the literature on this subject, while the interest in these birds is still fresh.

My birds came to me from Mr. Frostick in November 1916, and were from the first in perfect health and feather, in fact they appear never to have had a feather out of place or a trace of shabbiness during their three years sojourn with me—very different from the Broad-tails, for instance, who become very disreputable in appearance when moulting in September.

For a time after their arrival they were kept in a large cage in my sitting-room, and apart from requiring somewhat frequent cleaning, made delightful and interesting pets. No other species that I know is so kitten-like in its behaviour as these Lorikeets (the nearly-allied Red-naped behave in much the same way)—they roll each other over on the cage floor, and drag one another around the cage as if they were having a bout of "ju-jitsu;" the next moment they have perhaps disappeared into their nest-box, the racket reminding one of a party of children turned loose in the nursery.

As the birds became more at home in their new quarters they gradually but steadily developed their power of "song," which soon became too constant and nerve-racking even for me—this ended in their seclusion in an empty room, where again there followed a period of silence, which, unfortunately, did not last long. During the winter I frequently noticed the birds mating, and in February 1917 I discovered two eggs (the usual clutch) in the nest-box. These were not properly incubated, and soon got broken.

In April I turned the pair out into an aviary containing a mixed collection of Broad-tails, Ring-necks, etc. They behaved perfectly until June, when I suspected them of entering my Red-rumps' nest-box and destroying their eggs. They were not given the benefit of the doubt and were at once removed to a small aviary by themselves. Nothing suggestive of further breeding occurred until November 4th, when I found the hen sitting on two eggs. The aviary was an all-wire one, the nest-box being the only shelter in the place, and I strongly doubted the birds' ability to rear young under these circumstances; it was getting very cold and I had visions of frozen milksop and starving young. Had I known what I now know all would probably have gone well, but I decided to bring the birds indoors, so the following night I crept into the aviary, and clapping my hand over the entrance hole of the nest-box I transported the two birds and their eggs to a very large cage indoors. To my surprise the hen sat on for a few days, but finally made a meal off the eggs, which were apparently hard-set.

On December 12th the nest-box contained another egg. I discovered this fact owing to the appearance of the hen, who was obviously egg-bound. She was promptly oiled, steamed, and put into a very hot room, close to an anthracite stove, and the egg was duly passed during the night. This egg I placed in the nest-box with the other, but handling had probably upset the hen and she made no attempt to sit.

On January 15th, 1918, another egg was laid. The second egg did not appear till the 18th—an interval of 3 days (which is more or less constant). The hen sat steadily, and the first and only chick appeared on February 10th. This gives an incubation period of 26 days from the laying of the first egg. The youngster, when first hatched, was of the usual pink colour, covered with yellow down. He only progressed slowly, and disappeared after 10 days. On March 10th the room in which I kept the birds was required for other purposes, so I turned the Lorikeets out again into the open aviary, and it was only when I was hanging up their nest-box that I discovered it to contain two eggs. Oddly enough, the hen sat on steadily, and hatched out two chicks, one on April 1st, and another on the 6th. At this time I used to feed my birds on a somewhat complicated mixture of sponge cake with Mellin's food, honey, and condensed milk, together with any available fruit such as banana or orange. I also gave them, when rearing young, a pot containing golden syrup diluted with an equal quantity of water. Notwithstanding this varied diet one chick died at about 7 days, and the survivor, at the age of 5 weeks, had no down feathers or quills, and seemed to make very little growth. Mr. E. J. Brook, to whom I wrote at the time, suggested the addition of cane sugar, which I proceeded to give at the rate of 2 or 3 lumps daily—sugar was scarce at this time as my readers will remember.

I think this change of diet produced a little improvement for at the age of 9 weeks the quills began to show, and a week later there was a suggestion of colour about the head and wings. This extraordinary young bird remained in the nest-box for 16 weeks, and could not fly when he first emerged into the world. At the end of another three weeks, however, he was almost as large as his parents, and could fly and scream with the best of Lorikeets. He shortly afterwards went to Miss Peddie-Waddell.

This appeared to be my birds' final effort for 1918, and as winter approached they were transferred once more to the mixed aviary already mentioned, together with several species of Parrakeets. This aviary consists of a large shelter containing numerous nest-boxes for sleeping and breeding purposes, and an outer flight where I had unknowingly left one or two boxes from the summer. This fact was brought to my notice on January 1st, 1919, by the Lorikeets' noisy behaviour, and looking into the box in question I again found two eggs and on the 18th two chicks had made their appearance. Those aviculturists who keep notes of weather conditions will be able to verify the statement that about this date we were getting hard frosts every night and the milk sop provided was hard frozen each morning; in addition to this the nest-box had no sort of protection from the weather, as the flight is made up of wire-netting on every side.

Under the circumstances I had very little hope of rearing the young, and made no alteration in the diet of the parents, which for economy's sake I had lately reduced to ground-rice boiled for a few minutes with fresh cows' milk and sweetened with honey-sugar.

On February 9th my notes say: "Young doing well, have been quilled about a week, eyes open, try to hide when inspected; weather very cold ever since January 18th; frequent snow-storms, and of late 10 to 14 degrees of frost at night."

February 12th: "Colour well developed, blue on head breasts red, and backs green; 18-20 degrees of frost."

Notwithstanding these atrocious weather conditions all went well, and both birds left the nest on March 17th, i.e. at the age of eight weeks.

Why should these birds, which were hatched under the most adverse circumstances, leave their nest in just half the time taken by their predecessor? It is possible, of course, that the latter had some innate weakness, but I am inclined to think that the diet of fresh cow's milk suited the youngsters better than condensed milk. Anyhow, I have continued it the whole of this year with signal success, and my attempt at variety by substituting either sponge-cake or condensed milk for the ground rice and fresh milk was not favourably received by the parents.

My observations on the plumage of nestlings tallies, I think, with those of Sir Leo Money. The colours are as bright as in the adult bird, with the exception of the beaks and irides, which are reddish-brown instead of vermilion. The tail is, of course, much shorter at first than is the case in a full-grown bird.

I suspect that it is usual for the two young to be a pair. I have not been able to observe much difference in profile or shape of beak, but one of the young is usually brighter on the chest than the other, by which I mean that there is a larger expanse of vermilion on the orange or yellow ground.

In this connection it is interesting to note what I consider is probably an abnormality in my adult birds, viz.: that the hen, although considerably smaller and more *petite* in appearance than the cock, is very much brighter in the colouration of the chest.

This last pair of young birds left for Belgium with some others at Easter, when the parents were already sitting again. On May 21st and 23rd the chicks appeared, and grew rapidly on the above diet until June 22nd, when I removed them from the nest-box to be hand-reared. This was done without difficulty by a friend who took charge of them during my absence in July and August, but before I went away I was to witness a tragedy as the result of my interference:—An innocent pair of Red-rumps inhabiting the same aviary had three young of about three weeks old. On entering the aviary on the 25th June I found the cock rather badly mauled and unable to fly, and on looking into his nest-box I was horrified to find the hen dead and very much bitten about. She had evidently died protecting her young from the attentions of the Lorikeets, who, I verily believe, meant the young no harm, but were merely looking round for some substitute for their own young. I did not leave the young Red-rumps as I wanted the Lorikeets to nest again, but I was able to hand-rear two out of the three orphans.

After some years' experience with Parrakeets I have no hesitation in saying that Lorikeets can stand up to any bird even those considerably larger than themselves; that they are the hardest biting of any bird I have ever kept; and that, when they "see red" it is high time to separate them from their adversaries. This latter step I took immediately before leaving Eton on June 30th, and on returning for a couple of days at the beginning of August found them sitting once more in their new abode. Only one egg hatched out on this occasion, the young bird leaving the nest on October 17th.

At the time of writing (November 2nd) the old Lorikeets are once more sitting.

The two young birds which were hand-reared were returned to me about mid-September, and were at first housed in a large cage, when they were very fairly tame ,coming on to my hand at once when I introduced it through the door. Their delightfully confiding ways, however, were never fully seen until I put them out into an aviary. One need only walk in when down they fly on to your hand or shoulder or on to your cap. Perhaps their only faults are that they do not like being driven off when one wants to leave the aviary, and that their caresses are somewhat energetic. They are very fond of chewing my hands, and occasionally draw blood when so doing! It is all meant in good part, and must therefore be accepted in that light.

Both these birds and their parents always spend the night in a nest-box, and so are practically independent of the weather at night. By their demeanour I should not be at all surprised to find them sitting also in a few days.

The old birds have thus reared five young already this year, and may possibly bring off two more by Christmas. Should their offspring rear one or more young before the year is out I shall consider that I have a strain of Lorikeets as easily bred and considerably more remunerative than the common Budgerigar.

Of my other doings for the year there is not much to relate.

Diamond Doves have reared six young to maturity, and have allowed several just out of the nest to die for want of attention.

My Californian Quails have this year failed to do anything beyond laying 18 eggs, which were all unfertile. The hen, who has done her duties faithfully for several years, was getting old, and has since died.

Rosellas only reared five young, two of which never left the nest although fully feathered and well grown.

Peach-faced Lovebirds hatched out one chick out of six eggs in June. It was fully reared. The next sitting of four eggs was entirely successful; the four youngsters gradually left the nest at several days' interval during October. They are all strong on the wing at the moment, though they spent their first few days on the ground.

Blue-bred Budgerigars have bred fairly freely, and although most of the young, both of this season and last, showed a distinct bluish tinge on the under-parts, I have always found that they become typically green after the first moult.

This, I think, ends my recital of a very mediocre season, and I must look forward to an early return to insectivorous birds. They are certainly more trouble to feed, especially when rearing young, but the results are more pleasing when achieved, and infinitely more interesting.

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Thoughts in September.

By Miss J. Illingworth.

There are birds which love the water. They may not understand, but they are quite in sympathy with the mystery of it. Yesterday I passed by a little pool on the common. There were Swallows skimming along the surface. Every now and then one rose and swooped beautifully down, caught a "Jenny-skater," and was away again. A Pied Wagtail perched on a stone, looking out for prey. Tit-Larks hovered around, uttering their deeply cheery little note. A young Water Hen scurried across the pond. I could see the old nest on the lower branches of a willow, only an inch or so out of the water. The mother-bird was wandering jerkily in search of food on the green banks.

It is not surprising that the Swedish naturalist, Stillingfleet, affirms with absolute confidence that swallows hibernate under water. Even Gilbert White had to give ear to these theories. By his own observations he realised that sleepy swallows were usually first seen by the river. A snatch of warm weather and a few insects were certain to bring the swallows out of their torpidity. Was it probable that they would leave sunny Africa "To enjoy the transient summer of a couple of days?" Besides, there was the tunnel of the

Sand Martin. It was two feet long, and marvellously excavated. The swallow tribe were evidently able to make themselves cosy hibernaculums.

Once I begin to follow a stream its fascination overcomes me. Through an archway of silver birches—a Kingfisher dashing on before--the stream wanders up on to the moors. There is a Dipper flitting from stone to stone. As Knight-Horsefield says, it is curiously like the wren in characteristic movements, mode of flight and nest-building. Although the Dipper is not a web-footed creature, and does not swim upon the surface, it walks into the water until it is entirely submerged. Then it literally flies along the bed of the river, picking up its prey among the weeds. A Sandpiper flying lo walights on a little grey boulder. It trips daintily about, catching flies off the water . . . then away it goes, piping.

"These, Nature's works, the curious mind employ, inspire a soothing, melancholy joy."—G. White.

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Small Birds of Paradise

Reprinted from the "Times" of November 8th, 1919, with apologies and thanks to the Editors—cuttings per W. H. Raynor, M.A., and Miss L. Harbord.—Ed. B.N.

LORD TAVISTOCK'S LOAN TO THE ZOO.

"The Collection at the Zoological Gardens has been enriched, at least temporarily, by a number of birds obtained by Mr. Frost in New Guinea and the Malay Archipelago, for Lord Tavistock. Most of the parrots and lories, some of which were very rare, were at once sent on to the private aviaries of their owner, but an interesting and valuable set of other birds remain at the Gardens on deposit.

Amongst those that have been placed in the Small Bird House the most notable are four Lesser Birds of Paradise, all adult males, in fair plumage considering the long voyage they have undergone. Fortunately these beautiful birds are still fairly abundant in New Guinea and some of the smaller islands of the Malay Archipelago. Their plumes are bright yellow, tipped with white, and have a few stiff scarlet feathers amongst them . The head is marked with green and black, and the general plumage is a rich brown, washed with golden yellow and straw colour. Their diet consists of fruit, seeds, grubs and insects. In captivity they covet mealworms, and the offer of one of these is the best inducement to them to go into the brilliant display, characteristic of the Birds of Paradise.

Another cage in the Small Bird House contains a very fine example of the Pileated Hornbill of Sumatra. The bird is an adult male, black with a long white tail and a chestnut-coloured head. The huge bill is yellow, marked with red at the base. It is nearly omnivorous, taking fruit, insects, and any small rats or mice that it is able to capture. Hornbills become very tame, and have a good deal of intelligence, but their dirty habits make them unsuitable as pets. Another, not rare, but very attractive part of the collection is a pair of Red-sided Eclectus parrots from New Guinea. No one, not an expert in parrots, would guess that the male and female belong to the same species. In all the species of Eclectus, the females are brighter than the males, although it is not known whether there is a reversal in the breeding habits of the sexes as in the Phalaropes, where the dull-coloured males tend the young. In the Red-sided Eclectus the male is green with a yellow beak, and a pair of bright yellow-and-red tufts on the chest. The female is brilliant red, with a faint wash of blue on the chest, a dark beak, and bright yellow tail.

Two young One-wattled Cassowaries, belonging to the same collection, and obtained in New Guinea, have been placed in the Ostrich House. The birds are healthy and tame, but are too young to show the bright coloration of the adult. Cassowaries do fairly well in captivity, and take vegetables, chopped meat, bones, and any insect food that can be obtained. They are not closely related to the ostriches and emus, but their loss of the power of flight, their strong running legs, hairy plumage, and anatomical structure show that they belong to a primitive type of bird.

Two Victoria Crowned Pigeons from the Island of Jobi, and a so-called " common " Crowned Pigeon from New Guinea, have been placed in the Western Aviary. These magnificent birds are the finest of living pigeons. The plumage is slate-coloured with markings of black, chestnut, and white, varying with the species. They all have a large erect crest of decomposed feathers . Their usual note is harsh and trumpet-like, but in the breeding season they "coo" like other pigeons."

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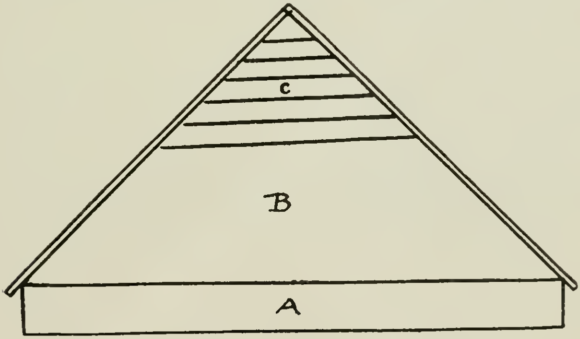
The Endurance of Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.

(Continued from page 218).

Quail: These are charming aviary-birds, but they do best on ground which is well drained and soon dries after rain. However, those whose ground has a subsoil of clay need not look upon this as prohibitive to successfully keeping them, as many species will do well with them, e.g. Californian, Chinese, Harlequin, Rain, etc., but the Jungle-Bush, Button, Argoondah and allied species are better on dry sandy ground, and if kept



special provision should be made: provide a patch of sand in a corner of the shelter with a small heap of brushwood lying on the top. It will also be well toprovide sundry small shelters about the flight, somewhat as diagram over leaf:

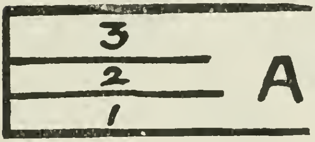
A is the base, 6 to 8 inches deep, and a convenient size is 24 by 15 inches. On this base are nailed the sloping boards forming the roof. No bottom is required.

B is the open space, giving the quail free access to the interior.

C is a portion of the front, boarded in to check driving rain.

If these shelters are placed in an open-flight, having all its sides wire-netting, then a solid back will be required, but when placed against a wood or brick back, no back to the shelter will be required.

Place the shelter in position and make a gentle slope of the outside ground up to top of board A. Then fill in the interior as in diagram:



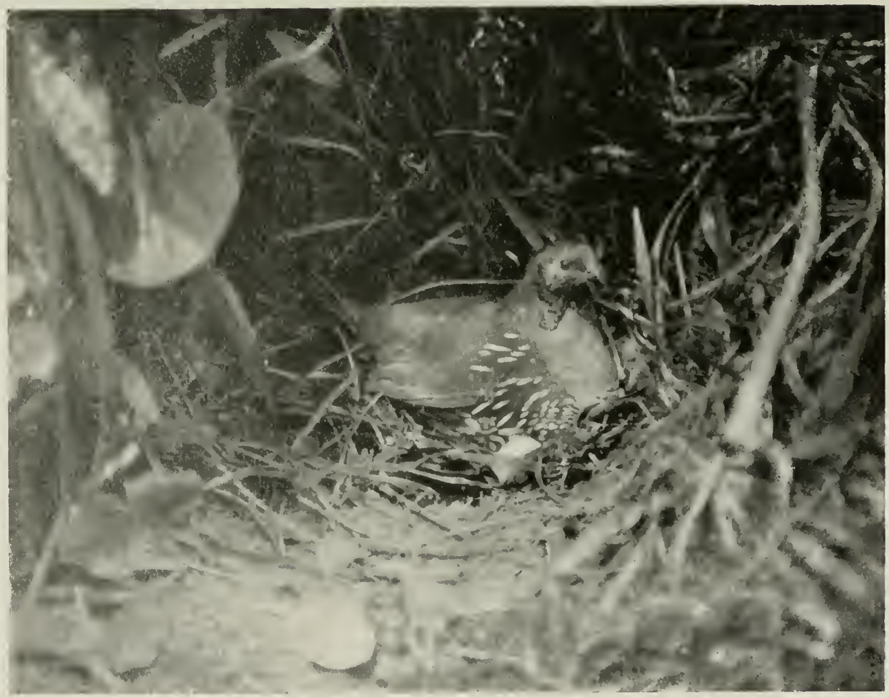
1 equals 1in. of rubble for drainage.
2 equals 1in. of ashes.
3 equals space to be filled up with sand.

With this provision of dry retreats, those species requiring dry ground could be kept by those aviculturists whose aviaries are erected on damp, wet-retentive ground.

If these shelters receive three coats of creosote, or some similar wood-preservative, they will have quite a "long-life."

The species to be dealt with in this article are:

* Californian Quail *(Lophortyx californica).*
* Chinese Painted Quail *(Excalfacteria chinensis).*
Rain Quail *(Coturnix coromandelica).*
* Harlequin Quail *(Coturnix delagorguii).*
* Argoondah Quail *(Perdicula argoondah).*



Californian Quail Incubating. *Photo H. Willford*

† Jungle-Bush Quail *(P. asiatica)*.
† Common Quail *(Coturnix coturnix)*.
† Little Button Quail *(Turnix dussumieri)*.
† Greater Button Quail *(T. tanki)*.

* Have bred in my aviaries.

† Require dry sandy ground, or the provision of sandy retreats (*vide* diagrams above).

FOOD: This is a very simple matter: where a numerous selection of hard-bills are kept, a couple of pairs of quail will subsist on the seed scattered on the ground by the hard-bills. If there is any doubt as to sufficiency a small pan of mixed canary, millet and small grain will fully meet their requirements. When they are feeding young they must have access to insectile mixture (any good brand will meet the case), a liberal supply of live insects (mealworms, gentles, ants' cocoons ,etc), and finely chopped spring onions as green food. Liquid custard is also excellent for the first 7 to 14 days. But they soon learn to pick up seed, and then the Bill of Fare of the adults fully meets their case.

Those species notified as having bred in my aviary have all been reared by the respective species, without the aid of foster-parents, coops or anything of that character, and the parents and their broods of wee chicks make charming pictures in the aviary-flight.

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL: Hardy, prolific, and very handsome; sexes quite distinct in plumage. Incubation about 23 days. The broods are usually large, 17 to 20, and most of the chicks hatched out are usually reared. This species spends as much time in the branches as it does on the ground. They are very picturesque in a roomy, naturally planted flight. About the size of a bantam fowl.

CHINESE PAINTED QUAIL: Really beautiful and quite small. The sexes are quite distinct in plumage. Though all aviculturists do not succeed in breeding them, they certainly are a prolific species once a breeding pair is secured. The chicks, though so exceedingly small, run about at once and get through half-inch mesh netting, so must be kept under observation. A family party of this charming species makes a beautiful picture, and they are the species *par excellence* for the mixed finch aviary.

HARLEQUIN QUAIL: A handsome African species, hardy and prolific, though sometimes it is not easy to secure a breeding pair.

The sexes are distinct in plumage. About the size of the Common Quail.

They have been crossed with the Rain Quail, and the resulting hybrids were very handsome birds. I have found young Harlequins fully as easy to rear as Californians.

RAIN QUAIL: A little smaller than the Common Quail, plainly clad, but a very pretty species. Hardy and prolific. In wet seasons the young are not always reared, so if such should be the case it would be well to put parents and young into a roomy coop on dry, well-drained ground. However, in an ordinary season there is no difficulty whatever in rearing them, if the conditions as to foods (*vide* above) are carried out.

ARGOONDAH QUAIL: Should not be kept on damp ground, unless the provision named in my opening remarks is supplied. A very handsome Indian species, hardy and robust though it does not thrive on wet ground.

It is quite ready to nest and hatch out a brood, but the young are not so easy to rear as any of the preceding species, especially in a wet season. However, if there be a plentitude of live insects and the parents and young are confined to the driest portion of the aviary, all should go well.

They are worth keeping for their great beauty alone.

JUNGLE-BUSH QUAIL: Very similar to the Argoondah, and, as everything I have written about them applies equally to the Jungle-Bush in all particulars, there is no need to recapitulate.

The sexes are distinct in plumage, very handsome, and the young are a little easier to rear, perhaps, than the Argoondahs.

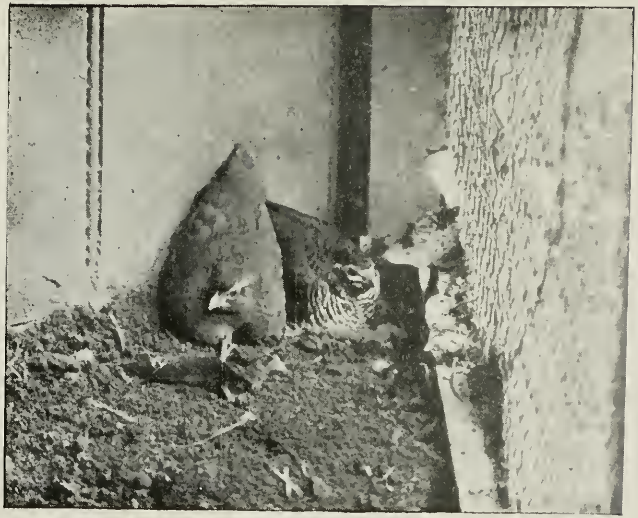


Photo D. Seth Smith.

Jungle Bush Quail.

COMMON QUAIL: For some reason this plainly-clad species has never laid eggs in my aviaries, though I have possessed many pairs.

Very few have been reared in captivity, in fact, I think I am correct in stating that only two aviculturists have succeeded in successfully rearing young.

It is hardy, but thrives best on dry ground, and calls for no further comment. It is the least attractive of all the quails, and is shy and wild in demeanour.

GREAT AND LITTLE BUTTON-QUAIL: Both these are very attractive and handsome species. Both are small species, but the Little Button is, I think, the most minute of all quail.

They are polyandrius, i.e., the male bird incubates the eggs and rears the chicks, while the hen, taking no interest in the eggs, goes off and seeks another mate and lays another clutch of eggs, and so on.

Given dry ground they are not at all difficult to keep fit in captivity, but, so far as I can call to mind at the moment of writing, *dussumieri* has made no attempt to go to nest in captivity.

Their native habitat is India.

In conclusion, I must point out that most species of quails are rather scary and wild when first put into new quarters, and apt to rise wildly and scalp themselves against the roof-netting of the aviary. Thus it is well to cut the flight feathers of one wing before turning them into the aviary. There will be no need to repeat this operation after the moult has restored to them the full power of flight, as, by this time they will have settled down and will not be liable to flying wildly, but simply scuttle into cover when one enters their enclosure.

I consider no mixed series of birds is complete unless it includes one or two pairs of these charming birds.

Except the Californian, the species named in this paper spend practically the whole of their time upon the ground.

To be continued.

Book Notices and Reviews.

A Practical Handbook of British Birds: By various authors, edited by H. F. Witherby, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., with numerous half-tone and coloured illustrations. In 18 parts, price 4s. each. London: Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Part IV.: In this part the Family *MOTACILLIDÆ* is completed, and Families *CERTHIDÆ*, *SITTIDÆ*, *PARIDÆ*, and *LANIIDÆ* are practically and comprehensively dealt with. There is a half-tone plate figuring juvenile plumages of certain *Paridae;* an exquisite coloured plate figuring Continental and British Blue Titmice: Continental, British, and Irish Coal Titmice; British Marsh Titmouse, and British Willow Titmouse. Also numerous and intensely practical text figures.

Part V.: Contains completion of *F. LANIIDÆ*, also *F. BOMBYCILLIDÆ* and *F. MUSCICAPIDÆ* is commenced. A beautiful half-tone plate figures certain *Bombycillidae* and an exquisite coloured plate figures eight species of the genus *Phylloscopus*. There are also numerous luminative text figures of heads, wings, and tails illustrating distinctive features between closely allied species.

The parts already issued fully demonstrate what the title claims this work to be, and, in our opinion, when completed, this work will be the most complete and practical compendium upon British species yet issued.

A List of the Birds of the Gambia: By Emilius Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., B. Ch. (Oxon), Travelling Commissioner, Gambia; price 4s. Brighton: Farncombe and Co., Eastern Road.

The Author states in his Preface: "This is an attempt "at a list of the Birds of Gambia, which is based chiefly on the "Ranges as given in the *Brit. Mus. Hand List*, and in "*Shelley's Birds of Africa*. The compiler has also drawn "freely on other writers who have dealt with Gambian Birds, "and added his own notes on the local distribution of the "birds he knows, the knowledge having been gained during "the 18 years he has worked in the Gambia Proctorate."

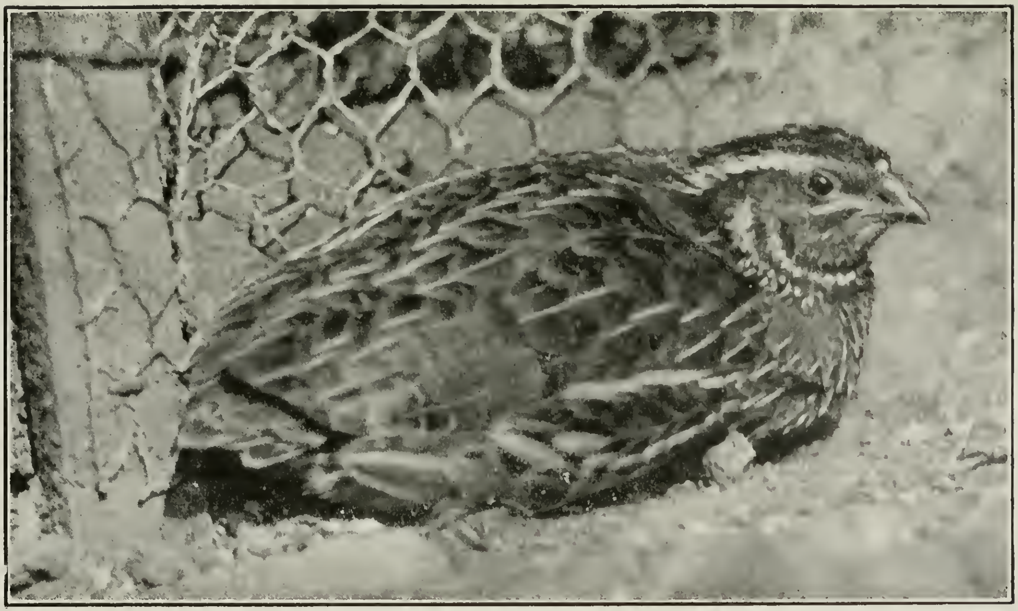


Photo E. O. Page.

Common Quail.

This first instalment is issued tentatively; it is hoped to complete the list in due course.

To show the plan of the List we give in full the first record of same.

1. PIN-TAILED WHYDAH.

"*Vidua serena* (Linn). H.L. v. 408; Sh. iv. 16.
"*V. principalis* (Linn). Cat. xiii., 203; Butler, *Foreign Finches in "Captivity*. Plate page 279.

"Range: Tropical Africa. †H.L. Africa generally south of about "17 N. lat. Also the islands of St. Thomas and Fernando Po. Sh."

"Common in the Gambia, but not very noticeable "during the dry season when out of colour, but a good many "are to be found in the catchers' cages, and towards the "beginning of and during the rains they are quite common "in suitable places."

As a painstaking writer on Gambian Birds Dr. Hopkinson is well known to readers of Bird Notes, and this, his latest effort, will be welcomed by all interested in African birds, and will be indispensable to their bookshelves.

◆

Correspondence.

SHORT ECLIPSE PERIOD OF JACKSON'S WHYDAH.

Sir,—Perhaps it may be of interest that a cock Jackson's Whydah, which has been in my outdoor aviary about four years, moulted about three weeks ago, and has since then come into full colour again. It looks in perfect plumage.

Usually it has gone out of colour in Autumn, and has remained so all the Winter.

Louth, October 10th, 1919. E. E. BENTLEY.

Such instances are not very uncommon, and occur among both Whydahs and Weavers; instances of the latter have occurred in which both a lengthening or shortening of the eclipse period has occurred, and also cases in which acclimatised birds, usually moulting and coming into colour normally, have failed to go out of colour at all for one or more seasons.—Ed.

OBTAINING OUR SUPPLIES OF FOREIGN BIRDS BY HUMANE METHODS.

Sir,—Now that the importation of foreign birds has again become possible, I have been wondering whether the members of F.B.C. cannot, by co-operative action, do something to put an end to two very great drawbacks attending aviculture at the present time.

(1) The extreme difficulty of securing a greater variety of exotic species for our aviaries; there are hundreds and hundreds of lovely birds, eminently suited for the purposes of aviculture, and quite common in their own country, which are never imported, or only come over at rare intervals, to be offered for sale at appalling prices.

(2) The very great disadvantage and wastefulness of their sojourn in small cages in the various dealers' shops, from which many reach us in a very unsatisfactory condition.

We are just beginning to emerge from the era when *every* bird-shop was a dirty, gloomy, stinking, disease-infected purgatory for its unfortunate inmates, but the conditions under which birds are caught and shipped are as bad as ever. The actual catching is mostly done by natives and professional trappers, who care nothing for the birds so long as they make something out of them; the travelling boxes are usually of such a kind that it is impossible even to clean them, and the care of the birds on the voyage is left to the ship's butcher, who may know nothing about his charges, and has other duties to attend to. The result is that for every bird which reaches us, to give pleasure by its beauty and interesting ways, many die en route.

This state of affairs is most distressing to a true lover of birds! It is not inevitable, and it and the first-mentioned drawback could be eliminated if the members of F.B.C. could agree to club together and finance expeditions, where the collecting was done by really humane and experienced bird-keepers, whose salary did not depend on the number of birds they brought back.

The superiority of the special expedition over the ordinary trade channels as a means of securing rare birds has already been abundantly demonstrated, and the appointment of the right kind of men as collectors would rule out the cruelty element altogether.

I should be pleased to hear the views of members upon the above.

Havant, November 4th, 1919. (THE MARQUIS OF) TAVISTOCK.

CERTAIN WEAVERS AND THEIR NESTS, AND ROSELLA PARRAKEETS.

Sir,—I hope I am not using too much space in our valued Journal, but I would like to make a few remarks.

With reference to Napoleon Weavers tearing their nests. My experience exactly coincides with Mr. Shore Baily's, in that I never noticed the old birds enlarge the opening before the young flew, but *afterwards* the nest was entirely pulled to pieces. I have bred these birds on many occasions.

With reference to Mrs. Sproston's observations on Rosella Parrakeets: I have, as you know, bred many of this species; I found that unless *all* nesting accommodation was removed for at least a fortnight after the young birds had flown they invariably died, simply because their parents neglected them and went to nest again before their young were able to fend for themselves. I lost two or three broods before I discovered this. The fault lay with the cock bird, who had no use for his progeny after they had left the nest.

Guildford, November 14th, 1919. L. LOVELL-KEAYS.

◆

With reference to our members, Messrs. Shore Baily and Dr. Lovell-Keays', remarks upon this interesting topic. I would like to point out: (1) That my remarks re same in September Bird Notes, referred to Napoleon and Red-billed Weavers as to my own experience, and to Red-billed and Grenadier Weavers in other members' aviaries (2) I did not claim to have *seen* the parent birds tear down the front of the nest prior to the young making their exit—my own experience being that overnight the nests were intact and the young snugly ensconced therein; at 6 o'clock the following morning the young had made their exit, and the front of the nest was partially torn away. Moreover, the nests in my aviary were not further destroyed, and were mostly otherwise intact, till cleared away in the spring clean-up.

Mrs. Sproston's difficulty was not that her young birds died after leaving the nest, but prior to doing so, though fully fledged and six weeks old. She asks two questions thereupon: (1) Is it usual for the young to remain in the nest for so long a period? My experience is: I have only bred one brood of Rosella Parrakeets, and they left the nest when fully seven weeks old. (2) Were my nest boxes too deep, and the young unable to get out? My experience is that a deep nest-box is a convenience as discouraging too early an exit, which young parrakeets are prone to, and, I think, in a back volume of B.N. Mr. H. D. Astly expressed a similar opinion.

If any of our members can throw any further light upon these interesting points will they please do so?

Lingfield, November 15th, 1919. WESLEY T. PAGE.

AN INTERESTING SHIPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDS.

SIR,—The lean days of ornithology appear to be passing. Messrs. Gamage, Ltd., of Holborn, have just secured what is probably the finest collection of South African birds ever brought to England. It covers some fifty species, and numbers about a thousand birds in good to perfect condition. Great care seems to have been taken of them, for the losses in transit were infinitesimal.

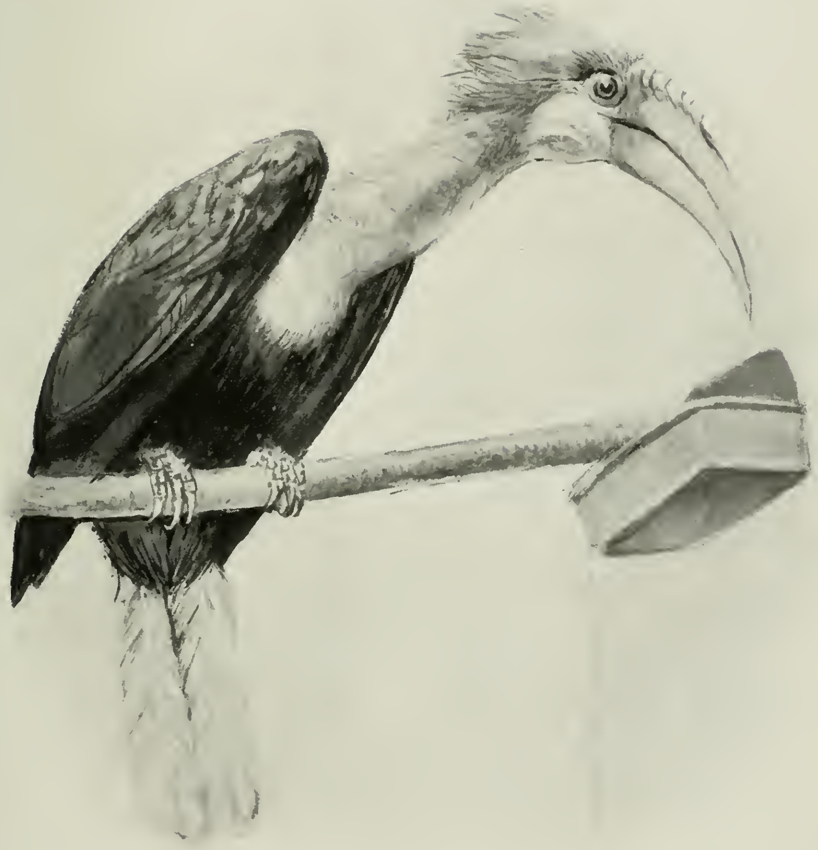
The varieties include Violet-Eared, Black-Cheeked, Dufresne's, Blue-Breast, and other Waxbills; Queen, White-Winged, Red-Collared, Giant, Paradise, and Pintailed Whydahs; many sorts of Weavers; Cape Canaries, and above all, some lovely Peach-Faced Lovebirds and Meyer's Parrots. There is a cage full of young Peach-Faced, all in in the pink of condition. The Meyer's also are young birds.

Above all we are glad to note that the prices are in some cases pre-war figures.

We don't think that so many Violet-Eared Waxbills have ever before been imported in a single batch. No fewer than 42 safely arrived, and they are a glorious sight. The number of Blue-Breasted Waxbills is 120, and there are over 300 perfect St. Helenas.

We should like to hear that the Zoo had secured samples of each species to redeem its present poor exhibit of birds. As things are, the Zoo is a great disappointment to the bird-lover. And surely the general public would rather see a Violet-Eared Waxbill than a caterpillar or civet-cat.

L.C.M.



From Life by Mrs. A. M. Cook.

Plicated Hornbill

Rhytidoceros plicatus.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Plicated Hornbill.

(Rylidoceros plicatus.)

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

This is one of a number of rare species placed on deposit at the Zoo by Lord Tavistock, and our member, Mrs. A. M. Cook, F.Z.S., has kindly made a study of it, which forms the plate accompanying these notes.

This species has very variant head and neck plumage e.g. dark-chestnut, rufous-buff, to buff. The individual at the Zoo has these parts buff, but in this specimen it may, perhaps only be a feature of juvenile plumage.

In a state of nature the arboreal or tree-haunting Hornbills subsist largely on fruit, supplementing this with any small mammal they can capture. They are small drinkers and show very little inclination to bathe, though I have seen them standing in a large dish of water, but I never saw them splash about therein, nor yet sprinkle their plumage by means of their huge bills.

Their movements are certainly not swan-like; they progress by a series of ungainly hops, whether on the ground or the branches of trees. Their flight is heavy and noisy.

Some of the species have a grotesque sort of beauty, and are very handsome birds. They soon become tame and steady. They feed in a strange and interesting manner, preferring their food in small lumps or balls, which they seize by the tip of the bill, then open their bill, at the same time giving the dainty morsel a downward jerk into their capacious throats. At other times they will toss their food into the air, and with wide open beak allow it to fall into the pink cavern of their mouth; I have never seen them fail to catch food so tossed up, or food thrown to them, while eagerly awaiting same on the perches.

In captivity they are almost omnivorous, and will thrive on a mixture of boiled rice, biscuit-meal, minced raw beef, and minced fruit, well kneaded together and then broken up into small lumps or balls. They are also very fond of boiled vegetables cut up into small cubes, also fruit similarly treated. Any mouse that allows itself to be captured is also used as a means of satisfying their somewhat large appetites. The indigestible portion of their dietary is ejected.

At the present time I have a pair of hand-reared Bengal Pied Hornbills *(Anthracoceros albirostris)*, which were sent to me by Mr. E. W. Harper with many other Indian species of birds. They are quite young birds, in juvenile plumage and with the casque of upper mandible only partially grown as yet. They are handsome and interesting, very tame but object to be handled. Photos and notes of same will appear in our next issue.

The Plicated Hornbill is new to the Zoo collection.

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Reminiscences.

By Dr. L. Lovell Keays, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 225).

Before leaving the British softbills I should like to make some remarks on a few of the other species; of these latter no bird so endeared itself to me as a Nightingale. He was at once the tamest and most cunning bird I ever possessed. Alas! that I should have to say it, he was also very greedy. It did not remain with me very long, as it went with the others when the collection was finally broken up. It occupied the largest aviary, which had an entrance at either end. But no matter how I tried to dodge him, he was always there to meet me at the door. Naturally he got the inevitable mealworm, and he took very good care that nobody else got any, until one day in exasperation I threw a small pebble at him to drive him away. The pebble did not actually hit the bird, but he construed my act into an insult, retired into a bush, and there sulked a whole day. His body was as upright as a Norwich canary's and as immobile as a stuffed bird's. No mealworm would soften him for several days, and he refused to warble to me after his breakfast. Eventually he forgave me, but seemed to say " Remember ! am a bird of royal blood, *never* take such a liberty with me again!" When finally he was caught up to send away, a task as easy as catching a dog, and put into his travelling cage, he looked the picture of injured dignity. I never heard how he got on, but I verily believe that bird died of a broken heart. When he left there was not much dinner eaten. He had so entwined himself round one's heart. He followed me like a dog, and I believe he would have been quite safe out of doors, although I never cared to risk the experiment.

Another extraordinarily tame bird I possessed and grew to love very dearly was a little hen Blue Sugarbird *(Dacnis cayana)*. She was blind in one eye and only cost a modest half-crown. She and I entered into partnership, and between us we made a lovely little cup-shaped nest. You see she could not quite manage it, and while she was still in the nest I would tuck in the part next to her blind eye. She was very impatient with my mistakes! Would take the tow out of my fingers and say quite plainly in bird-language " Here, you clumsy human, give me that bit of tow and I will tuck that in." Of fear she knew absolutely nothing, and I have often fed her on the nest while she was incubating. Her husband was a ne'er-do-well and shamefully neglected his pretty little wife, and spent most of his time at the club. He was very quarrelsome and finally murdered another of his own species, because he thought the other fellow was paying too much attention to his wife. He had no use for me, and apparently no objection to my building his wife's home. After a good deal of trouble my little friend completed the nest, laid two enormous eggs, and commenced to incubate. Before the babies were born the father died after a short illness, brought on by dissolute habits she said. When the chicks hatched I persuaded Mrs. Sugarbird to let me have a peep, and there was only one. Still that was a fine healthy chick, and we bought a book, took lots of advice, and tried our hands at rearing Baby Sugarbird. It only lived 3 or 4 days, and I unconsciously was the murderer. You see, I didn't understand baby Sugarbirds in those days, and I actually gave Mrs. Sugarbird a gentle for the baby. As I had given it to her she thought it must be all right, and gave it to her baby, which died the same day. In light of more mature experience I can only say to myself "*What* did you expect?" So my little friend was a wife, a widow and a childless mother all in a few days. She lived with me for quite a while, but one day she seemed a little seedy, so I gently caught her up, a little ball of green fluff, after the dustman had passed by, and brought her into the house, but loving care without knowledge and experience (for it was in my early days of aviculture) did not avail, and so my little friend was gathered to her fathers, and took the journey which knows no return, leaving a heavy-hearted human to mourn for her.

Aviculture is not one unending success, and the loss of birds, such as she, leaves a scar which not even time can efface. It seems hard to believe "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." She was not stuffed, because stuffed birds look so unreal, and after all, it is not the shape of the bird that wins its way to your affections. It is a thousand pretty little ways. As the saying is "Charms catch the eye, but won't win the soul."

But what "cursed spite" is it that pursues one in life? Each bird that has been a real pet, a friend to cheer one, has met with a violent end. I recollect two of the tamest Parrakeets I ever saw or had. They were examples of that lovely little Conure the Orange-flanked Parrakeet. The tameness of the cock bird was quite uncanny. I have taken him out of doors in the garden scores of times without anything to prevent him flying away. He once did, and flew into an 800-acre wood near by. However, when he had recovered his fright, I called him (his name was *Jolly*) and he came back, but I had to climb a tree before I actually got him on my hand. Once there he never attempted to fly away. He hated being held. Originally he had a good temper, but my aviary boy got nervous when he flew on to him and wished him good morning. Doubtless he gave the boy's ear a little tweak, a trick he was rather given to, quite in fun, but never to hurt, and the youth, who was not noted for his courage or valour, used to drive him away. This made Jolly a little inclined to nip at times, but never those whom he really knew. Mine nested, but never hatched out, and thereby hangs a tale. A beautiful Mealy Rosella shared the same aviary, but although he had the clothing of a sheep he had the heart of the blackest villain. Moreover, he was as sly as a fox, and never manifested his murderous tendencies when I was about. I sold him once, but the person who was supposed to have bought him sent him back, as he had not got blue cheeks. This so annoyed the Rosella that on his return he ran amok and killed poor Joey, all but killed Sarah, his wife, and then killed my hen Malabar Parrakeet, who was herself nursing a baby Malabar, than whom there never was a more inoffensive bird in existence. This was another blow to me, and my opinion of people who buy birds properly described, keep them for ten days, although *not* sent on approval, and then return them saying " they havn't got blue cheeks " is better imagined than described. Sometimes I think I will have another Joey and Sarah, but, I ask myself, would it be loyal to my old friends to supplant them in my memory? I once got as far as ordering a pair, but nine guineas seemed rather a big price. I was living in a hotel at the time, and so I decided to let Joey and Sarah reign supreme in my memory for a little longer at any rate.

Now all these birds were absolutely different in character; the Nightingale showed dog-like faithfulness, but wanted to be treated as a friend standing in the same place as I did. The Sugarbird was a partner and told me all her troubles, and, woman-like, leant on me to help her through. The Orange-flanks were of the familiar friend type, so aptly described by Cowper in the following lines:—

"The man who hails you Tom or Jack,
And shows, by thumps upon your back,
How he esteems your merit,
Is such a friend that one had need
Be very much his friend indeed
To pardon or to bear it!"

And so my aviary boy found out and resented it. Each has his or her place in my avicultural cenotaph and can never be forgotten. Each one taught me a lesson, which was learnt at the expense of its little life, so one hopes at least if one is sadder, yet it may mean a wiser man.

(To be concluded).

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Records of Birds which have Bred in Captivity

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

475.—YELLOW-BILLED DUCK. *A. undulata*. **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1911.

Hybrids.

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK × MELLER'S DUCK. W.T.P. Zoo, 1910.
" " " × DUSKY DUCK. W.T.P. Zoo, 1910.
" " " × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.

× Yellow-billed (Wild Duck).

× Yellow-billed (Dusky Duck).

◆

476.—CRESTED CHILIAN DUCK. *A. cristata*. **W.T.P.**

◆

477.—SPOT-BILLED DUCK. *Poiionetta poecilorhyncha*. **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905, etc.

Hybrids.

× Spot-billed (Wild Duck).

478.—ANDAMAN TEAL. *P. albigularis.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1905 (4) "probably the first time." †Report.

◆

479.—FALCATED DUCK. *Eunetta falcata.*
St. Quintin, 1916. See A.M. 1917, 249.

HYBRIDS.

FALCATED DUCK × GADWALL.

Kew Gardens, 1916. First recorded as the first success, true-bred Falcated, A.M. 1917, 96, but later Finn decides that the young are this cross. See A.M. 1917, 240.

× Falcated Duck (Ruddy Shelduck).

◆

480.—GADWALL. *Chaulelasmus streperus.* **W.T.P.**
Wormald, 1913. See A.M. (3) v. 335.

HYBRIDS.

GADWALL × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.

GADWALL × PINTAIL. W.T.P.
× Gadwall (Summer Duck).
× Gadwall (Wild Duck).
× Gadwall (Falcated Duck).

◆

481.—WIGEON. *Mareca penelope.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1908, etc.

HYBRIDS.

WIGEON × WILD DUCK. W.T.P. and Vale.
,, × PINTAIL. W.T.P.
,, × COMMON TEAL. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, × BAIKAL TEAL. Abroad, W.T.P. C.

× Wigeon (Wild Duck).

× Wigeon (Pintail).

◆

482.—AMERICAN WIGEON. *M. americana.* **W.T.P.**
Wormald, 1913. See A.M. (3) v. 335.

HYBRIDS.

× American Wigeon (Wild Duck).
× American Wigeon (Bahama Duck).

483.—CHILOE WIGEON. *M. sibilatrix*. **W.T.P.**
Wormald as above.

HYBRIDS.

CHILOE WIGEON × CHILIAN PINTAIL. W.T.P.

◆

484.—BAIKAL TEAL. *Nettium formosum*. **W.T.P.**

HYBRIDS.

× Baikal Teal (Wigeon).

◆

485.—COMMON TEAL. *N. crecca*. **W.T.P.**
Wormald as above.

HYBRIDS.

× Common Teal (Wild Duck).
× Common Teal (Wigeon).
× Common Teal (Pintail).

◆

486.—AUSTRALIAN TEAL. *N. castaneum*. **W.T.P.**
Abroad, " I have bred them during the last 3 or 4 years " Blaauw, Holland, *Ibis*, 1916, 254.

◆

487.—GREY TEAL. *N. gibberifrons*. **W.T.P.**

◆

488.—YELLOW-BILLED TEAL. *N. flavirostre*. **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1909, etc.

◆

489.—BRASILIAN TEAL. *N. brasiliense*. **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1912.

◆

490.—PINTAIL. *Dafila acuta*. **W.T.P.**
Wormald, 1913. See A.M. (3) v. 335.

HYBRIDS.

PINTAIL × WILD DUCK.
W.T.P. " offspring fertile " †Bartlett. *Wild Animals in Captivity*, 217

PINTAIL × MELLER'S DUCK. Presumably a necessary preliminary to the fifth Wild × Spotbill × hybrids; see WILD DUCK hybrids.

PINTAIL × WIGEON. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
,, × COMMON TEAL. Abroad, W.T.P. C.
× Pintail (Wild Duck).
× Pintail (Australian Wild Duck).
× Pintail (Gadwall).
× Pintail (Wigeon).
× Pintail × Wild Duck Hybrid (Wild Duck × Spotbill Hybrid).

◆

491.—CHILIAN PINTAIL. *D. spinicauda*. **W.T.P.**
Wormald as above.

Hybrids.

CHILIAN PINTAIL × AUSTRALIAN WILD DUCK. W.T.P.
× Chilian Pintail (Chiloe Wigeon).

◆

492.—BAHAMA DUCK. *Poecilonetta bahamensis*. **W.T.P.**
Wormald as above.

Hybrids.

BAHAMA DUCK × AMERICAN WIGEON.
Zoo, 1913 (7).

◆

493.—RED-BILLED DUCK. *P. erythrorhyncha*. **W.T.P.**
Abroad, 2 bred by Blaauw, Holland, in 1916. See A.A. 1917, 66.

◆

494.—VERSICOLOR TEAL. *Querquedula versicolor*. **W.T.P.**

◆

495.—GARGENEY. *Q. querquedula*.
I think has been bred, but I have come across no record yet. (E.H.).

◆

496.—BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Q. discors*.
Hybrids.

× Blue-winged Teal (Cinnamon Teal).

◆

497.—CINNAMON TEAL. *Q. cyanoptera*.
Hybrids.

CINNAMON TEAL × BLUE-WINGED TEAL.
Wormald, "easily obtained and *vice-versa*;" see A.M. (3) v. 364.

498.—MARBLED DUCK. *Marmoronetta angustirostris.* **W.T.P.**

Hybrids.

MARBLED DUCK × WHITE-EYED POCHARD. W.T.P.
× Marbled Duck (White-eyed Pochard).

499.—SHOVELLER. *Spatula clypeata.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1910, etc.

Hybrids.

× Shoveller (Wild Duck).

◆

500.—RED-CRESTED POCHARD. *Netta rufina.* **W.T.P.**

Hybrids.

× Red-crested Pochard (Rosy-billed Duck).

◆

501.—ROSY-BILLED DUCK. *Metopiana peposaca.* **W.T.P.**
Zoo, 1907.

Hybrids.

ROSY-BILLED DUCK × WILD DUCK. W.T.P.
" " " × RED-CRESTED POCHARD. W.T.P.
" " " × TUFTED DUCK. W.T.P.
× Rosy-billed Duck (Australian Wild Duck).
× Rosy-billed Duck (White-eyed Pochard).

◆

502.—POCHARD. *Aythya ferina.* **W.T.P.**
Wormald, 1913. A.M. (3) v. 335.

Hybrids.

POCHARD × RED-CRESTED POCHARD W.T.P
" × WHITE-EYED POCHARD (" Paget's Duck ").
Abroad, W.T.P. C.
" × TUFTED DUCK. Abroad, W.T.P. C.

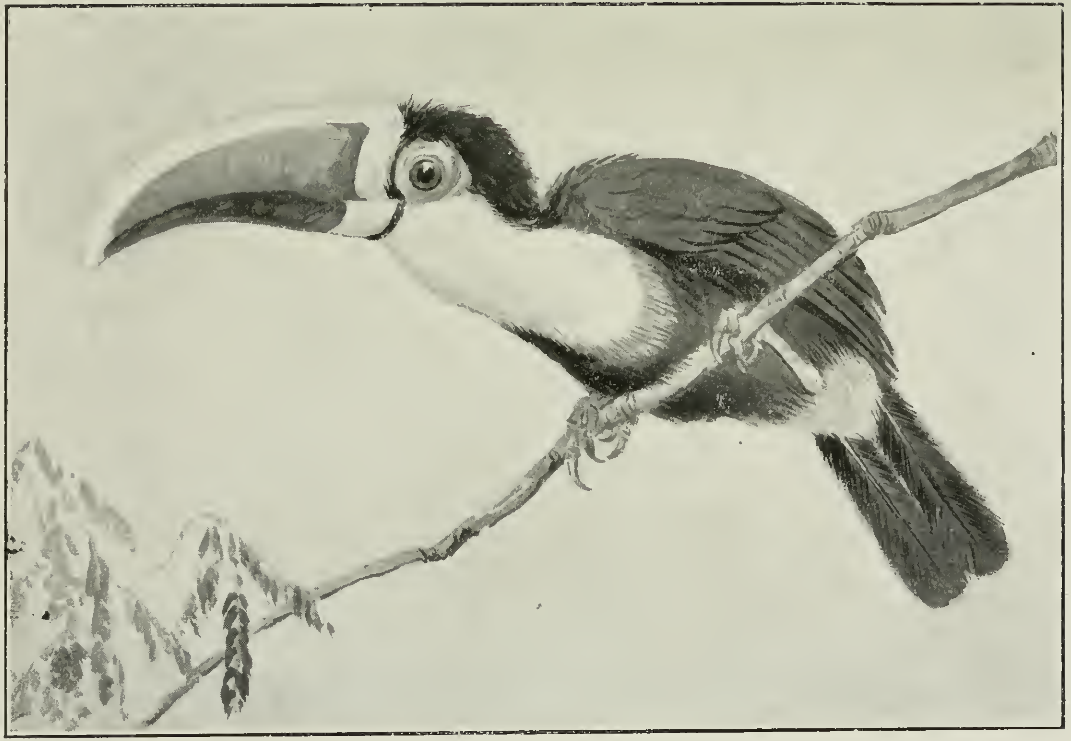
(To be continued.)

Red-Billed Toucan.

(Rhamphastus erythrohynchus.)

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

The specimen from which Mrs. A. M. Cook has made the drawing, which illustrates these notes, has been placed on deposit at the Zoo, and is one of many rare species collected for Lord Tavistock in New-Guinea, and are comparatively recent arrivals.



From Life by Mrs. A. M. Cook.

Red Tailed Toucan.
Rhamphastos erythrorhynchus.

Toucans are interesting and quaint birds, and their general habits, characteristics, etc., are as quaint as their appearance, which is as droll when they are in restful slumber as when actively disporting about their flight. As will be readily imagined they make most interesting pets, but need a roomy cage, whch must be frequently cleansed, as they are large eaters of soft-food, fruit, etc. They well repay any trouble their care involves, as they become very tame and familiar when kept as pets.

Food. They are almost omnivorous, and very little comes amiss to them. I found them to thrive on a mixture of boiled rice, minced fruit and a little finely minced raw beef, well kneaded together with the hand. I varied this with a mixture of scalded biscuit meal, boiled potatoes and carrots, minced fruit and raw beef, well kneading the whole together. They are very fond of small fruit, such as cherries, damsons, plums and the like, which they toss about to each other as if having a game at ball, before swallowing same. The stones are ejected. Any mouse or small bird they get hold of is eaten with gusto.

An " old pal " of mine, Parson, a Lesser Sulphur-breasted Toucan, which died at the Zoo during the war, was a most amusing bird—he tolerated any sort of familiarity save being handled, and this he certainly did not appreciate, resenting same by giving a playful nip with the point of his huge bill, and as Toucans only lay hold of a very small portion when so resenting such familiarity, a small blood-blister was usually the result. However, he never attempted to bite under any other conditions, and he was much missed when the dismantling of my Mitcham aviaries in the autumn of 1916 compelled me to send him to the Zoo.

He received the cognomen " Parson " owing to his food table resembling a reading desk, and his habit of standing thereupon and braying forth, with many grotesque gestures, his unmusical song (?).

So much did he interest me that I am hoping, in the near future, to have a pair in a small outdoor flight and give them an opportunity to breed if they will. They should be housed indoors from late October till early May, as they are rather liable to pneumonia, and their plumage, when wet clogs, leaving them almost naked and at the mercy of the usually atrocious, English autumn and winter.

With all this, Toucans are birds to attract, interest, amuse and fascinate their owners in numberless ways, and never pall upon them, unless kept in very restricted quarters, when, like many other species, they are lethargic and stupid.

This species is, I believe, new to the Zoo collection.

◆

Book Notices and Reviews.

MENAGERIE CLUB YEAR BOOK: G. Tyrwhitt Drake, Cobtree Manor, Maidstone, Kent.

The Year Book of the Amateur Menagerie Club, which has not been issued since 1917, makes a very welcome reappearance, though it does not yet reach the bulk of pre-war times. It nevertheless forms a very artistic and well got up little volume. Quite a feature of the issue are the charming marginal sketches of Mr. G. Tyrwhitt Drake, the Hon. Secretary of the Club. It contains practical and well illustrated articles as under:

Some Notes on my Stock—*E. E. Blaauw.*

Cranes—*D. Seth Smith.*

Notes on the Effect of the British Climate on some Exotic Animals—*T. H. Gillespie.*

"Antony," my Chimpanzee—*Dr. J. Kerr Butler.*

Wild Life in the Balkans—*J. C. Laidlay.*

My Capuchins—*Norah L. Walker.*

The Temperament of Lion Cubs *G. Tyrwhitt Drake.*

It contains over twenty half-tone photo-reproductions of great interest, and forms a most attractive and interesting book of 108 pages.

Editorial

RETROSPECT: This has been fairly given in the *Secretary's Report*, and but little further remains to be said.

During the year we have been compelled to temporarily increase the annual subscription to 20s., and we are pleased to note that the members as a whole have accepted this as a necessity, and that resignations from this cause have been but three.

Perhaps the most disappointing feature of the year has been a lessening in the number of our contributors, probably this has been but a natural sequel to the " times " through which we have been passing, but we hope in the coming year that this will be rectified, and every member realise their responsibility in this respect.

Even the increased subscription has not permitted the resumption of coloured plates as yet, and there appears little probability of this being possible in 1920.

The volume completed with this issue has been well illustrated, and on behalf of the Club we present our best thanks to all who have assisted in this respect; particular mention must be made of Mrs. A. M. Cook, who has generously *presented* to the Club no less than six drawings for reproduction, two of which appear in this issue.

Birds are now being imported in increasing numbers, and next season should see renewed activity and many interesting results in numerous aviaries.

The volume of BIRD NOTES completed with this issue will, we consider, compare favourably with its predecessors, and we congratulate the members thereupon. All that is needed to increase the pestige of F.B.C. and maintain the excellence of its Journal is, for each member to realise that they individually must help to this end, IMPORTING FOREIGN BIRDS: There have been several responses to Lord Tavistock's letter on this topic, expressing approval and promising active and financial support to any scheme that is started to this end. Further particulars will be given as to plans, etc., in our next issue.

General Index.

* Items marked with an asterisk indicate Correspondence.

Owing to a printer's error, the page numbering of August was duplicated in September issue. To surmount this difficulty, the contents of these two issues are indexed so : " 199 Aug.," and " 199 Sept.," and so on.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

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C. F. Crow.	E. E. Bentley.

Rules.

1. The objects of "THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds, and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and an annual subscription of 10s Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a Member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries' objections to any Candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a Council of Twenty-four Members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manne hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (×) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the president shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations or additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time than at the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decission of a majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

   (a) At least three classes must be provided for *FOREIGN BIRDS* (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F.B.C. patronage may be shown).

   (b) The classification and name of the judge must be submitted by Show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

   (c) Those societies obtaining patronage must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

   (d) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of classes must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the or'ginal patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have the right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms, and should request show secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.;* one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at shows outside this area, for points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word "CUP" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified. for that show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of the Show Committee.

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Rules re Breeding Medals.

1. The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions **only:**

   (a) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in BIRD NOTES as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

   (b) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

   (c) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

DEFICIT: As yet, we are not in a position to state actual result, but about two thirds of the amount asked for has been contributed, leaving about one third yet to be raised. Barely half the members have as yet responded to the circular appeal, and we press those who have not yet done so, to help the Club according to their ability, so that this encumbrance may be entirely removed.

SUBSCRIPTION: We seriously considered the question of increasing the annual subscription, as has had to be done almost universally, but with the signing of the armistice and the consequent hope of normal conditions in the near future, we have left the matter in abeyance for another year. But if costs of production remain as at present, there will be a deficit, though not a serious one, on the year's working, and at the close we shall have to ask members to contribute what this amounts to per head. Some of the members are anxious for the resumption of coloured plates, but these are now very costly, and it will not be wise to resume same till conditions are quite normal and the entire deficit cleared off.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ARREARS: We once more urge all who are in arrears to remit same at once to the Treasurer, together with their subscription for the current year.

We regret having to put Rule 2 in force as regards the list given below, all of whose names have been *removed from the roll of members;* all are more than one year in arrears and have received at least *three* applications for same, to which they have made no response:

Stanley Amor, 29 Shelly Road, Bath.
F. Bowerman, 12 Wellington Street, Swindon.
W. L. Forster, Smithfield, Orange Free State, S. Africa.
J. Frostick, High Road, Streatham, S.W.
P. F. M. Galloway, Caversham, Reading.
Miss Susan Greenall, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham.
Mrs. Hollins, Coppice Drive, Harrogate.
H. V. Hamilton, The Rest on the Hillside, Hythe, Kent.
C. Isaac, Brockley House, Slough.
C. C. Lynman, M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford.
E. A. Mallett, Great Wishford, Salisbury.
S. Mappin, 12 Albert Hall Mans., Kensington Gore, S.W.
R. A. Newley, Stockwell Green, London, S.W.
Miss Parminter, Didgemore Hall, Roydon, Essex.
Mrs. A. Speaker, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham.

M. Thomson, 4 William Street, Rosslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand.
Lewis Vale, 8 Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E.
L. M. Wade, Oakhill Road, Ashtead, Surrey.

By giving a satisfactory reason and paying up arrears, any of the above may be reinstated on roll without re-election.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

AN APOLOGY.

SIR,—I have removed to address given below, and as I have heard of several letters that have been lost, and have received 3 this a.m. that were written last November, I wish to apologise to any who have not received answers from me.

The Bungalow,
Banks, Lane, Heysham Harbour,
Lancs., January 13th, 1919.

JOHN W. MARSDEN.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds, for obvious reasons, need all the help members can give them—the committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Alt, Mrs.		10	0
Bright, H. E.	5	0	0
Currie, J.		2	6
Dennis, Mrs.		5	0
Dewar, J.F.	1	0	0
Dell, C.		10	6
Dobbie J.		10	0
Dunleath, The Lady	1	0	0
Fasey, W. R.	1	0	0
Gorringe, Rev. R. E. P.	1	1	0
Hartley, Mrs. E. A.		10	0
Hand, Miss		7	6
Hansson, Miss	1	0	0
Harbord, Miss (Deficit and postage)	1	3	6
Herbert, L.	1	0	0
Hewitt, T.	1	1	0
Hogg, Hon. Miss N.		15	0
Kewley, Mrs. M.	1	0	0
Low, G. E.		10	0

	£	s.	d.
Lucas, Miss E.	1	1	0
Lucas, Capt. N. S., R.A.M.C.	2	2	0
Millsum, O.	1	0	0
Mortimer, Mrs.		5	0
Mundy, Miss S.	3	0	0
Oakey, W.		10	0
Ormsby, Miss		5	0
Pullar, J.		10	0
Rattigan,	1	0	0
Raynor, Rev. G. H.	1	1	0
Rogerson, Mrs.		10	0
Simpson, R. E.		5	0
Scott-Miller, R.		10	0
Slade,		10	0
Street, E.		10	6
Swayne, P.		11	0
Temple, W. R.	2	0	0
Tomlinson, M.	1	0	0
Travers Mrs.		5	0
Turner, H. J.		10	0
Ward, Dr. Fowler		10	6
Weir, J.		10	0
Waddell, Miss L. M. Peddie		10	0
Windybank,		10	6
Young, Miss C.		10	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. B. Mortimer to Wigmore, Pearce Green, Surrey.
Mrs. H. E. Dennis to Wigmore, Pearce Green, Surrey.
W. E. Steinschen to 1 Queen's Road, Guernsey.
Capt. L. Lovell-Keays, R.A.M.C., to Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Proposed for Election as Member.

Miss R. Hand, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved

* The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,
Stanley Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

Bright, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

Cockateels
Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches
Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

* Burgess, Mrs. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller Canaries.

Clare, Miss L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.
Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* Chatterton, Mrs. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8
Cockateels

Budgerigars

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool
Zebra Finches.

* Marsden, J., F.Z.S., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* Pithie, Miss D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* Montefiore, Mrs. H. Sebag, West Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* Tracey, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register ,and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Pairs of Goldfinches 20s., Bullfinches 15s., Marsh Tits 15s. Greenfinches 7s. 6d., Chaffinches 7s. 6d., Blue Tits 5s., Ox-eye Tits 5s., all per pair. Also cock Goldfinch mule in full song 20s., all aviary moulted and in perfect feather and condition.—Percy Carr, Newbold-on-Stour, near Stratford-on-Avon.

FOR SALE: 1 Pair each of Silverbills 20s., Blue-bills 20s., Yellow-billed Weavers 20s., Red-billed Weavers 20s., White-headed Nuns 20s., Three-coloured Nuns 20s., Cutthroats, breeding pair, 30s., 3 or 4 pairs Zebra Finches 20s. per pair; 1 cock Ruficauda Finch 20s.; 2 Black-headed Nuns 20s.; hybrid Nuns 10s. each; 2 Rosellas 25s. each; 1 All Green Parrakeet 25s.; 1 breeding hen Indian Parrakeet 25s.; 1918 Budgerigars 6s. each; odd hen ped. Canaries 15s. each, cocks do. 20s. each, cin. and cin. marked etc.: 2-22 points contest bird rollers 5s. each; also 2 cock White Canaries. Stamp reply only answered.—Mrs. M. A. Burgess, 52 Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

WANTED: Young hen Cockateel, or would sell two year old cock. FOR SALE: 1 true pair Rufous-necked Weavers, 1 hybrid St. Helena Seedeater × Canary, cock, splendid songster. Green Budgerigars, young hens 8s. 6d. each, 1918 youngsters 6s. each; all from outdoor aviary, and in fine condition.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8.

WIRE NETTING: A quantity of new ½ inch mesh in large lots, will be offered for sale end of this month in 50 yard rolls. Any member wanting same should communicate *at once* with H. Robbins, The Maisonette, New Oxford Street, London, W.C., so that mutual arrangements may be made as to purchase, as it will only be sold lots of a number of 50 yard rolls.

FOR SALE: Budgerigars: one pair adult Yellows 30s.; three pairs adult Greens 20s. pair; two odd Green cocks 8s. 6d. each; all from outdoor aviary, and in splendid condition.—Mrs. Mackness, 22 Cyprus Road, Finchley.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

J. H. HENSTOCK, AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured, Plates can be obtained from the Publisher.

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each. Postage 1d. extra.

FEBRUARY, 1919.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

THE ROLL: We regret the late appearance of the roll of members, but this has been held back for thorough revision, which has not been possible earlier.

NEW MEMBERS: We again remind members that the present is a good time to make an effort to obtain such. There are large numbers of bird-keepers who do not belong to, probably do not know of, the F.B.C., who only need to see our Journal and receive a cordial invitation to join. We would remind members that the club covers ALL SPECIES of birds, and not merely foreign species. If we are to obtain a material increase of membership ALL must share in the effort to obtain it, and then we shall get it.

LIST OF CLUB BREEDERS: We should be glad to see this list increased. Any member who has "breeding pairs" of any species should send in his or her name to be added to the list. A descriptive catalogue of the species included in the list is in course of preparation, and any additional names should be sent in at once so that it may be as complete as possible. Full details of this scheme will be found in last volume of BIRD NOTES, pages 98 and 99.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds, for obvious reasons, need all the help members can give them—the committee thankfully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Burgess, Mrs.	0	10	0
Ebrill, W.	0	10	0
Mitchell, H.	0	10	0
Reeve, Capt. J. S.	2	0	0
Rothwell, J. E.	2	0	0
Schuyl, D. G.	0	5	0
Sich, H. L.	0	10	0

Corrigenda: "Miss Hansson, 20s." in January issue should read 10s.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Maj. R. H. Lindsey-Renton, D.S.O., Covers, Reigate, Surrey. *By the Hon. Editor.*

Neal Green, F.Z.S., Holbeck Manor, Horncastle, Lincs. *By R. Suggitt.*

R. H. Gills, 4 Queens Grove, Longsight, Manchester. *By Miss E. G. R. Peddie-Waddell.*

A. S. H. Wayenouth, Belmont, St. George's Avenue, Weybridge. *By Miss V. H. Hansson.*

New Member Elected.

Miss R. Hand, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

* THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,

Stanley Parrakeets.

* BAILY, W., SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures

Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves.

BRIGHT, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

Cockateels
Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches

Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

* BURGESS, MRS. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

CLARE, MISS L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.

Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8

Cockateels

Budgerigars

* CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* MARSDEN, J. F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHIE, MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, West Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* TRACEY, MRS. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register, and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: BIRD NOTES, unbound and perfect, for 1911-12-13 and 14 (Vols. II., III., IV. and V.) complete with all plates, coloured and half-tone, etc.—A. O'Neil, 86, Petteril Street, Carlisle.

FOR SALE: Fine adult Stanley Parrakeet, hen, perfect condition, mad on mating.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED: Hen Californian Quail.—S. Williams, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N., 13.

FOR SALE: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (believed hen); also, hen Rosella Parrakeet, or would purchase adult acclimatised cock. Both birds been in outdoor aviary through several winters.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in Bird Notes, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Flycatcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

J. H. HENSTOCK, Avian Press, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

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MARCH, 1919.

The Foreign Bird Club.

ROLL OF MEMBERS.

Honorary Member.

Filmer, H. R., (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

◆

Acton, G. H., Bytham, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading. (February, 1914).

Alderson, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).

Allan, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).

Alt, Mrs. M., 28, Melrose Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W. (April, 1914).

Ames, Mrs. Hobart, North Easton, Massachussetts, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

Amsler, Dr. Maurice, Eton Court House, High Street, Windsor, Eton. (March, 1909).

Andrews, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (December, 1911).

Anningson, Mrs., 4, The Crescent, The Park, Plymouth. (December, 1901).

Anson, E. R., The Manor House, Aldingbourne, Chichester. (April, 1918).

Appleby, K. A., Dormant. (October, 1910).

Armstrong, Mrs. A. M., Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham. (November, 1915).

Arnold, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, Londin, S.W.16 (March, 1912).

Arnott, Peter, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).

Arrighi, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh. (March, 1908)

Attwell, Harold E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).

Avery, Mrs. A., 63, Windsor Road, Forest Gate, E. 7. (March, 1918).

Ayton, Ed., 71 Grosvenor Street, London, W., 1. (March, 1918).

Baily, W. Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).

Bainbridge, Capt. W. A., Tarrant Keynston Manor, Tarrant Keynston, Blandford. (September, 1912).

Baines, R., 6, Toronto Street, Monk's Road, Lincoln. (February, 1916).

Bamford, Wm., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).

Barnard, T. T., Kempston Hoo, Bedford. (July, 1915).

Bartels, O., "Orchida," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. (January, 1917).

Batty, Capt. W. R., 11 Park Road, Southport. (October, 1915).

Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908)

Beazor, Rev., J. T. A. Lovell, The Nest, Bicclescombe Park, Ilfracombe. (April, 1911).

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bentley, Ernest E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).

Bonhote, J. L., Esq., M.A., F.Z.S., Dormant. (May, 1916).

Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Gwendolen, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. 1. (December, 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth (January, 1908).

Bowring, Miss Clara, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks. (July, 1914).

Brackenridge, W. A., 525 Orange Grove Ave., South Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (June, 1918).

Bright, Herebrt, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (October, 1911).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, Dumfrieshire. (Mar. 1908)

Browning, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Browne, Capt. A. E., Belmont, Muree, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).

Bruce, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).

Bufton, Reginald P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire. (Jan., 1913)

Burgess, Mrs., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol. (September, 1915).

Bush, W., The County Bor. of Newport School of Art, Clarence Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Cadogan, Lt. Com. Francis, F.Z.S., etc., "Marshall Ney," c/o G.P.O., London, E.C., and at Hallicrop Castle, Fairford, Glos. (August, 1917)

Calvert, Mrs. H., The Ridge, Kasuli, Punjab, India. (July, 1915).

Calvocoresi, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool. (October, 1916)

Campbell, Mrs. Constance, 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (August, 1910).

Camps, H. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.).

Capern, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).

Carr, J. T., Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast. (September, 1912).

Carr, Percy, Ormond Lodge, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon (November, 1918).

Cartwright, Mrs. E., The Hawthorns, Tickhill, Rotherham. (January, 1912)

Case, Mrs. A. M., Holmbury, Silverdale Road, Eastbourne. (February, 1918).

Chaplin, Mrs. Drummond, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. (July, 1914).

Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Ware. (September, 1903).

Charlesworth, Miss Audry, Marnhull Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset (July, 1914).

Chatterton, Mrs., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (January, 1915).

Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).

Christie, Mrs. G., Kellas, By Elgin. (January, 1913).

Clare, Miss Lydia, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. 19. (March, 1910).

Clark, W. G., Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough. (January, 1915).

Clarke, L. Hyde, Woodlands, St. Olave's, Gt. Yarmouth. (October, 1918).

Cleeburg, Chas., junr., Bellevue House, Dumfries, N.B. (December, 1916).

Colton, R., 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).

Connell, Mrs. Knatchbull, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants. (July, 1912).

Cook, Mrs. A. M., F.Z.S., 5 Lancaster Road, Hampstead, London, N.W., 3. (February, 1916).

Croker, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911)

Cronkshaw, J., 7, Harcourt Road, Accrington. (November, 1901).

Crow, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).

Currie, J., 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).

Cushny, Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47, Watling St., St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.).

Davies, Mrs. M. H., St. Ann's, Tintern, Chepstow. (January, 1914).

Dawson-Smith, Lt., F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. (March, 1912)

Dell, C. E., 12, High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W. 10. (January, 1914)

Dennis, Mrs. Harold, Wigmore, Pearce Green, Dorking, Surrey. (Jan. 1904)

Dewar, D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., c/o Bombay Nat. History Society., 6, Apollo Street, Bombay, India. (June, 1907).

Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).

De Yarburg-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).

Dickinson, Mrs. E., Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India. (January, 1918).

Ditchfield, F., 37, Nugget Street, Oldham. (April, 1914).

Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).

Dobson, W. B. C., Bindown, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames. (April, 1914).

Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907)

Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (November, 1901).

Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, "Mosborough," Grafton Road, Cheltenham. (May, 1906).

Dyott, Capt. R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).

Earle, J. Hudson, Newgate House, Cottingham, Hull. (March, 1914).

Ebrill, Wm., "Greenville," South Circular Road, Limerick. (April, 1906).

EDMUNDS, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset. (November, 1909).

ELMS, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June 1910).

ESSEX, The Countess of, Hillside, Parbold, Wigan. (August, 1909).

EZRA, A., F.Z.S., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1. (January, 1911).

EZRA, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. (August, 1912).

FALKNER, GUY, The Cottage, Belton, Uppingham. (November, 1916).

FASEY, WILLIAM R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (January, 1903).

FISHER, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).

FISHER-ROWE, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (January, 1911).

FLOWER, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).

FORD, A. FREEMAN, 215 South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (October, 1918).

FOSTER, T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Torquay. (March, 1914).

FOWLER-WARD, Dr. F., 40, Berners Street, Ipswich. (October, 1913).

FREVILLE, Miss M. N. de, Welbeck Estate, Lovedale, Nilgiris, S. India. (January, 1916).

FROST, W. J. C., 13, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W. (August, 1913).

GALLOWAY, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. 2. (November, 1907).

GARCKE, Mrs. C., Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. (June, 1916).

GARDINER, Mrs. STANLEY, Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge. (January, 1913).

GERRARD, Miss M., 31, Via Sarto Spirito, Florence, Italy. (June, 1914).

GILLS, R. H., 4 Queens Grove, Longsight, Manchester. (February, 1919).

Goodchild, H., 59, Leslie Road, East Finchley, London, N. (July, 1903).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).

Gosse, Capt. Philip, M.D., M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

Govtino, J.P., 820 Summit Ave., Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. (Mar. 1918)

Gray, H., M.R.C.V.S., 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. 8. (May, 1906).

Green, Neal, F.Z.S., Holbeck Manor, Horncastle, Lincs. (February, 1919).

Gregson, Mrs. C. B., c/o Messrs. Andrews, Yule and Co., 8, Clive Row, Calcutta, India. (February, 1918).

Grossmith, J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).

Gurney, G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

Haggie, Miss E., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (February, 1910).

Hale, Clinton, B., Pedrogisa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).

Halkes, T. C., The Limes, 141, Monks Road, Lincoln. (July, 1916).

Hand, Miss R., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (January, 1919).

Hansson, Mrs. Vera Hirst, The Low Hall, Killinghall, Harrogate. (January, 1918).

Harbord, Miss M. L., Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth. (April, 1916).

Harcourt, The Rt. Hon. Lewis, P.C., 14, Berkeley Square, London, W. 1. (April, 1914).

Harper, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 17-19, Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India. (October, 1907).

Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London. E. 2. (April, 1910).

Harrison, T. O. 127, Hastings Road, Sunderland. (March, 1918)

Hartley, Mrs. F. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (Sept., 1907).

Harvey, P. T., Fairleigh; Old Leigh Road, Westcliffe, Southend-on-Sea. (June, 1915).

Hawke, The Hon. M. C., c/o Miss B. Harrison, Manor House, Otton, Tadcaster. (November, 1902).

Hawkins, J. F., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. (April, 1915).

Hawkins, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Mem.)

Hebb, T., Brooklea, The Downs, Luton. (August, 1913).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (November, 1908).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).

Herbert, Lieut. Edward Greville, c/o Messrs. Cox & Co., R.A.F. Branch, 111, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C., 2. (January, 1915).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (December, 1904)

Hogg, The Hon. Norah Megard, 53, Lancaster Gate, London, W. 2. (March, 1917).

Holden, Ralph A., F.Z.S., 5, St. John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C. 1, and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

Hopkinson, Emilius, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).

Horne, A., " Bonn-na-Coille," Murtle, Aberdeen. (August, 1917).

Horton, Miss M., Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex. (November, 1915).

Howe, Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Hunnings, Lieut. A., F.S.I., 31, Broadwater Road, Tottenham, London, N. (March, 1918).

Hyde, Walter, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1915).

Jardine, J., Castle Milk, Lockerbie, N.B. (August, 1913).

Jeakins, A. E., Winscottie, Simla, India. (April, 1916).

Jersey, The Countess of, Middleton Park, Bicester. (November, 1912).

Johnson, Miss L., Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (Sept., 1910).

Johnson, Major F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton. (Aug. 1911).

Jordan, W., Hill House, Palmer's Green, London, N. (April, 1916).

Kennedy, Mrs., 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kewley, Mrs. M. A., Sedgbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (Sept., 1910).

Knobel, Miss E. Maud, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec., 1911).

Lamb, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906)

Leach, C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).

Legh de Legh, Dr. H., Redcar, Yorks. (April, 1911).

Lilford, The Lord, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).

Lindsey-Renton, G. H., Dovers, Reigate, Surrey. (February, 1919).

Lindsey-Renton, Maj. R. H., D.S.O., Dovers, Reigate, Surrey. (Feb., 1919)

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).

Lovell-Keays, Capt. L. F., R.A.M.C., Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford, Surrey. (March, 1913).

Low, G. E., 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingstown. (May, 1914).

Lucas, Miss Emma, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept. 1913).

Lucas, Capt., N. S., M.B., F.Z.S., 19, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. 2. (January, 1914).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.L.S., 4, Wimpole St., London, W. (January, 1903).

McDonald, D. D., Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B. (October, 1915).

Mackness, Mrs. N., Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley N. (June, 1916).

Macready, F. W., 39, George Street, Stranraer. (July, 1916).

Mannering, R., Knoll Cottage, Noak Hill, Romford. (February, 1912).

Marmont, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).

Marsden, J., F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Morecambe, Lancs. (March, 1914).

Marshall, M. M., South Grand Ave., Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (March, 1919).

Mason, D., The Maisonnette, Broadstairs. (April, 1914).

Master, G., M.B., B.C., 80, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov. 1903)

Maxwell-Jackson, Miss M., Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate. (Jan. 1913)

Maxwell, C. T., 1, Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).

Meadows, J. C. W., 19, Cardiff Road, Luton. (February, 1908).

Miller, Mrs. K. Leslie, Dormant. (January 1903).

Millsum, O. The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).

Mitchell, H., 6a, Brunswick Terrace, Hove, Brighton. (September, 1903).

Money, Sir L. G. Chiozza, The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N. (October, 1910).

Montague, G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. 21. (February, 1909).

Montgomery, W. O., c/o Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).

Morrison, The Hon. Mrs. McLaren, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James' Park, London, S.W. (November, 1906).

Mortimer, Mrs., Wigmore, Pearce Green, Dorking, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.)

Mundy, Miss Sybil, Shipley Hall, Derby. (August, 1911).

Murton Marshall, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

Naylor, Mrs. F. M., Alton House, Mersey Road, Aigburth, Liverpool. (October, 1915).

Newman, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

Oakey, W., The Anglers' Inn, Pole Street, Preston. (Orig. Mem.).

Oberholser, Harry C., 2805, 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (December, 1903).

O'Donnell, O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (August, 1912).

O'Reilly, Nicholas S., 144, Eastern Road, Kemp Town, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

Ormsby, Miss E., The Cottage, Silver Field, Harrogate. (June, 1917).

Page, W. T., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., (*Hon. Editor*), Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey. (May, 1905).

Painter, V. Kenyon, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).

Paterson, Mrs. A. C., c/o National Bank of India, 26, Bishopgate, London, E.C. 2. (November, 1908).

Pelley, Henry Le, L.C. & M. Bank, Guernsey. (October, 1916).

Percival, W. G., Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (January, 1915)

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (Feb. 1903)

Perreau, Mrs. G. A., c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co., 54, Parliament Street, London, S.W., 1. (September, 1916).

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., Treffgarne Hall, Treffgarne, Pembrokeshire. (September, 1908).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

Phillips, E. R., 12, Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (September, 1915)

Pike, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).

Pithie, Miss D. E., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth. (rejoined January, 1918).

Pollack, A. J., Loretto House, Heston, Bradford. (August, 1917).

Poltimore, Lady, Court Place, North Molton, N. Devon. (August, 1911).

Pond, Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (November, 1902).

Pope, Mrs., Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).

Powell, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool. (May, 1914).

Pullar, Lawrence, H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. (October, 1913).

Quincey R. de Quincey, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (August, 1910).

Rathborne, H. B., Dreenan, Letter Co., Fermanagh. (November, 1915).

Rattigan, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909)

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (October, 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909)

Reeve, Capt. J. S., F.Z.S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).

Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).

Robbins, H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W.C. 1. (October, 1908).

Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (December, 1909).

Rogers, W. T., 21, Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907).

Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (February, 1903).

Roth, Fred. G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov. 1908)

Rotherwell, James E., 153, Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (February, 1911).

Routh, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (January, 1912).

Rumsey, Lacy, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).

Ryan, G. E., (Bar-at-Law), 28, Cleveland Square, Hyde Park, London, W., 2. (November, 1913).

Samuelson, Lady, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey. (July, 1916).

Schuyl, D. G., 12, Toe-Haringylist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).

Scott, Lieut. B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, A. H., Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. (October, 1915).

Scott, J. Easton, M.B., Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants. (March, 1908)

Scott, Mrs. J. Easton, Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants. (March, 1908)

Scott-Miller, R., Clydebank, Uddington. (May, 1913).

Sebag-Montefiore, Mrs., East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).

Shipton, A. J., 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W. 17 (April, 1913)

Sich, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. 4. (June 1908).

Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth., Manchester. (February, 1908).

Sidgwick, Dr. J. E., Shirley Dene, Hildenborough, Tonbridge.

Sills, Arthur, "Eyemore," Arley via Bewdley, Worcs. (January, 1911).

Simpson, R. E., c/o Mrs. Allcorn, 12 Railway Cottages, Bottesford, Nottingham. (December, 1907).

Slade, G. J., 34, Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).

Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal. (January, 1910).

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, Priory House, Priory Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey. (January, 1911).

Snape, Maj. A. E., R.F.C., Langroyd, Sunningdale, Berks. (March, 1918).

Snarey, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Somers, Lieut. F. W., A.V.C., T.F., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).

Southcombe, S. L., Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (September, 1910)

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908)

Sprawson, Capt. M. C., R.A.M.C., 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London, N. 6. (October, 1913).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (January, 1911).

Steinschen, W. E., 1, Queens Road, Guernsey. (February, 1914).

Stephens, A. J., 86, Balfour Road, Ilford. (February, 1914).

Stewart, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (Februray, 1914)

Storey, Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (November, 1912).

Stott, A. E., 15, East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

Street, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909)

Strickland, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

Strong, Herbert, Redlands, Chislehurst Road, Bickley. (April, 1913).

Suggitt, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (December, 1903).

Suggitt, W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (January, 1915).

Sutcliffe, Albert, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

Swayne, Henry A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

Sykes, J., 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (January, 1912).

Taintegines, Baronne le Clement de, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

Tavistock, The Marquis of, Warblington House, Havant, Hants. (January, 1913).

Temple, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

Teschemaker, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (March, 1907)

Thomasset, B. C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury. (July, 1912).

Thorburn, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

Thwaites, Dr. Gilbert B., 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

Tilley, G. D. F., New York, Z.S., Dárien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (Jan., 1913)

Tomassi Baldelli, La Countessa, G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

Tomlinson, Malcolm R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April, 1913).

Tossizza, Baron M., 15, Rue de Lubeck, Paris, France. (March, 1916).

Townsend, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Original Member).

Tracy, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).

Travers, Mrs. Johnson, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, co. Cork. (December, 1903)

Travis, Mrs., Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (Jauary, 1911).

Turner, Herbert J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbott. (February, 1915).

Turner-Turner, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (November, 1910).

Urwick, D. R., St. Cross Mill, Winchester. (March, 1913).

Valentine, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (December, 1911).

Verstranten, Mons., Augusta House, Belle Vue Road, Ramsgate. (April, 1916).

Waddell, Miss E. G. R. Peddie, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (February, 1909).

Wait, Miss L. M., St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (December, 1907).

Walker, Carr, Tyrie, West Park, Headingley, Leeds. (March, 1916).

Wallace, Norman H., Ard Brugh, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. (June, 1917).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Greenmount, Newcastle, co. Down. (Oct. 1905)

Watson, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).

Wayenouth, A. S. H., Belmont, St. George's Ave., Weybridge. (Feb. 1919)

Wedge, E., Thorpedale Cottage, Chorley Wood, Rickmansworth, Herts. (February, 1915).

Weir, J., Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (Dec. 1912)

Wellington, H. G., The Duchess of, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke, Hants. (April, 1918).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907)

Wethey, Mrs. R. E., Lebden, Coatham, Redcar. (July, 1911).

Whistler, Hugh I. P., c/o King, King and Co., Agents, Bombay, India. (January, 1913).

White, A. L., Gleshire, Barrowby Road, Grantham. (November, 1916).

Whitley, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).

Willford, Henry, (*Hon. Photographer*), Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde (July, 1908).

Williams, Sidney, F.Z.S., (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), "Oakleigh," 110, Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. 13. (October, 1910)

Williams, Mrs. C. H., Emanuel Vicarage, Exeter. (January, 1911).

Williamson, T. F. M., 604, Prospect Avenue, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A. (August, 1917).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 35, Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906)

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Harrow Lodge, Bransgore, Christchurch. (Jan. 1902)

Winchilsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford (June, 1903).

Windybank, L. A., "Letchmere," 216, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames (June, 1916).

Windham, Lady E., Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

Wimble, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (December, 1909)

Woodward, Kenneth N., 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1915).

Workman, W. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June, 1912).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Hawkhurst. December, 1902).

Yealland, James, Binstead Ryde. (September, 1909).

Young, Miss Constance, Thornhill, Alnwick. (October, 1911).

Young, Rev. H. W., Stone Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. (April, 1917).

Yule, Lady, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts. (Jan., 1914)

Zoological Society, The New York, 185th Street and Southern Boulevard, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1917).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List.

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

TEN WAYS TO KILL A SOCIETY.

1. Do not go to the meetings.
2. But if you do go, go late.
3. If the weather does'nt suit you, don't think of going.
4. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
5. Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticise than to do things.
6. Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, and if you are, do not attend the committee meetings.
7. If asked by the chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things ought to be done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly, unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the society is run by a clique.
9. Hold back your subscription as long as possible, or don't pay at all.
10. Don't bother about getting new members—" Let the secretary do it "—*Advance Club News.*

Donations, etc.—No list of these to hand at time of going to press.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

Major R. H. Lindsey-Renton, D.S.O., Dovers, Reigate, Surrey.
Neal Green, F.Z.S., Holbeck Manor, Horncastle, Lincs.
R. H. Gills, 4, Queens Grove, Lingsight, Manchester.
A. S. H. Wayenouth, Belmont, St. George's Avenue, Weybridge.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Lieut. A. Hunnings, 34, Broadwater Road, Tottenham, London, N., *By Maj. A. E. Snape.*

G. H. Lindsey-Renton, Dovers, Reigate, Surrey, *By the Hon. Editor.*

Dr. E. Fitch-Daglish, F.Z.S., etc., 8 Beaulieu Villas, Finsbury Road, London, N. 4., *By the Hon. Editor.*

Marcus M. Marshall, South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A., *By T. F. M. Williamson.*

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

* The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,

Stanley Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures

Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

Bright, H. E., Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

Cockateels
Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches

Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

* Burgess, Mrs. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

Clare, Miss L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.

Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* Chatterton, Mrs. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N. 8

Cockateels
Budgerigars

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* Marsden, J. F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* Pithie, Miss D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* Montefiore, Mrs. H. Sebag, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* Tracey, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register, and that with the exception of the first-named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

The Bird Market.

Members' Rates: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: 2 cock Goldfinch × Canary Mules (1918)—one light in colour—good singers, 15s. each.—Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

FOR SALE: Two wooden feeders for outdoor aviary, acting as trap, 20s. and 15s. each respectively.—Mrs. E. G. Davies, St. Ann's, Tintern, Near Chepstow.

WANTED: Cock Brown's Parrakeet, would either purchase or take on loan for breeding. If any member has a cock Brown's and will not sell, will they take a hen on loan for breeding?—The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.

WANTED:—Hen Mealy Rosella, and any other rare parrakeets.—Miss L. Clare, The Hillies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

DR. BUTLER'S *Foreign Finches for Aviaries*—60 life size coloured plates. Published £1 15s., price £1 1s., postage extra. Only a few copies left.—A. Ford, Naturalist, South View, Irving Road, Bournemouth.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in BIRD NOTES, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Fly-catcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

J. H. HENSTOCK, AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured, Plates can be obtained from the Publisher.

Price 1/6 each, except those marked * which are 1/- each. Postage 1d. extra.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

THE CLUB JOURNAL: Even at the risk of repeating ourselves *ad nauseum*, we would once more urge the necessity of more members contributing to the contents of BIRD NOTES. We are anxious that our Journal should be really representative of the Club, and this can only be so, as a considerably larger number record their avicultural experiences therein. Even though most of us have but few birds at present, there are many who could write upon such subjects as:

BIRDS I HAVE KEPT.
PARROTS I HAVE KEPT.
DOVES I HAVE KEPT.
GAME BIRDS I HAVE KEPT.
FINCHES I HAVE KEPT.

and on other avicultural topics also—and write interesting, and instructive articles thereupon too.

We urge them to do so.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Bufton, R.	0	10	0
Garcke, Mrs.	0	10	0
Hume, J.	0	5	0
Marmont, W.	0	10	0
Paterson, Mrs. J. M.	2	2	0
Pithie, Miss D.	1	0	0
Suggitt, R.	0	10	0
Valentine, E.	0	10	0
Williamson, T. F. M.	0	10	0
*Crow, C. F.	2	2	0
*Bentley, E. E.	1	1	0
Cook, Mrs. A. M.	Three (3) Drawings.		

* Should have appeared in December, 1918, notices.—Ed.

Proposed for Election as Members.

J. Walmsby, Dale Cottage, Mayfield Road, St. Annes-on-Sea. *By H. Snarey.*
A. Decoux, Gery, Par Aixe-sur-Vienne, Hte. Vienne, France. *By the Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

Lieut. A. Hunnings, 34 Broadwater Road, Tottenham, London, N.
G. H. Lindsey-Renton, Dovers, Reigate, Surrey.
Dr. E. Fitch-Daglish, F.Z.S., 8 Beaulieu Villas, Finsbury Road, London, N. 4.
Marcus, M. Marshall, South Grand Avenue, Pasadena, California, U.S.A.

Change and Corrections of Address.

A. S. H. Waymouth, to Gildersbank, Clapham, Lancaster.
Poltimore, Lady, to Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon.

Errata re Roll.

A. S. H. Wayenouth, should read A. S. H. Waymouth.
Dr. M. Amsler's address should read—Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor.

Add to Roll.

S. Clarke, "Vue du Lac," Fermain, Guernsey.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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Stanley Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury Wilts.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

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Cockateels
Budgerigars
Peach-faced Lovebirds
Pope Cardinals
Long-tailed Grassfinches
Diamond Finches
Green Cardinals
Doves, Violet
,, Diamond
,, Red Mountain
Pigeons, Geoffry's
Zebra Finches

* BURGESS, MRS. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

CLARE, MISS L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.
Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N., 8
Cockateels
Budgerigars

* CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* MARSDEN, J, F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHIE, MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
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Cockateels.

* TRACEY, MRS. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Complete set of *Avicultural Magazine*, from 1894 to 1913 inclusive, bound, new condition, £7 15s.—Miss E. Haggie, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

WANTED: Hen Indigo or Nonpareil Bunting.—Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.

WANTED: Adult hen Zebra Dove.—Tomlinson, Inveresk, Midlothian.

WANTED: Pairs, rare British Birds, Blossom-headed Parrakeets Red-collared Lorikeet, and hen Shama—Sale or exchange hen Green Singingfinch.—Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln

WANTED: Hens: Mealy Rosella and Pennant's Parrakeets; also cock King Parrakeet.—Miss Clare, The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED: Hens Green Cardinal and Java Sparrow; also adult cock Rosella Parrakeet. FOR SALE: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, believed to be a hen.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in Bird Notes, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-checked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
Purple Sunbird and Great-billed Fly-catcher
* Queen Alexandra Parrakeet
Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

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J. H. HENSTOCK, Avian Press, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: We much regret the late appearance of this and the press issue, but in the stress and pressure of many duties, the editor has found it impossible to get the issues out earlier. We hope the next and following issues will appear on the proper date, viz: the fifteenth of each month.

COPY: The editor, once more, appeals to members resident abroad for field notes and photos of the avifauna of the district wherein they reside. Equally so he appeals to home members for similar notes of our native avifauna, and specially so for accounts of the same under the conditions of aviary life. Gradually we shall be working back to normal times and conditions, and he solicits accounts of aviaries and birds from our members, details of their conduct and happenings during the war-period should make interesting and instructive reading. He repeats once more that for BIRD NOTES to be representative of the Club and aviculture generally more members must contribute to its contents. As a rule what interests ourselves about our birds and aviaries will interest others—very little is trivial. Only as *all* tell of their experience can there anything like a comprehensive record of English aviculture, and this is what the Journal of a Society such as the F.B.C. should be.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Change and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. H. Kewley, to Barwich House, Yeovil, Somerset.
Dr. E. Hopkinson, to 45 Sussex Square, Brighton.
W. J. C. Frost, to 6 Wards Avenue, Fulham, London, S.W. 6.
Miss M. Gerrad to 14 Via Perasto, Lido, Venice, Italy.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Ransom, 92 Dora Road, Wimbledon Park, London, S.W. 19, *By Mrs. M. Burgess and the Hon. Editor.*
E. E. Pyman, West House, Hartlepool.

New Members Elected.

J. Walmsley, Dale Cottage, Mayfield Road, St. Ann's-on-Sea.
A. Decoux, Par Aixe-sur-Vienne, Hte. Vienne, France.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

* Indicates ability to supply as soon as young are old enough to be moved.

* The Marquis of Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hants.,
    Stanley Parrakeets.

* Baily, W., Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.
    Rosella Parrakeets
    Stanley Parrakeets
    Conures
    Bronze-wing Doves
    Brush Bronze-wing Doves
    Necklace Doves
    Diamond Doves

* Burgess, Mrs. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.
    Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
    Green Budgerigars
    Yellow Budgerigars
    Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

Clare, Miss L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.
Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* Chatterton, Mrs. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N., 8
    Cockateels
    Budgerigars

* Calvocoressi, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
    Zebra Finches.

* Marsden, J, F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs
    Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
    Stanley Parrakeets.
    Many-colour Parrakeets.

* Pithie, Miss D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
    Zebra Finches.

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* TRACEY, MRS. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

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WANTED: Hen Blossom-head or Plum-head Parrakeet. FOR SALE: Pair Meyer's Parrots, £12.—T. Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds

WANTED: Pairs rare British birds, also hen Blood-rump Parrakeet.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: BIRD NOTES, Vol. 1 to date (1901 to 18), all bound up to and including 1913, 1914 to 18 unbound.—Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, Seisdon, Staplecross, Sussex.

WANTED: Pairs of White Java, and Ring Doves, or pairs of foreign doves. from outdoor aviary for breeding.—S. Williams, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. 13.

FOR SALE: Hen Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, or would buy acclimatised cock. —Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

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Waxwing.
Gouldian Finch
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Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
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Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
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Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
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A Beautiful Aviary
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Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
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Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Late Issue: The Hon. Editor much regrets the late appearance of this issue, but circumstances beyond his control have prevented an earlier publication; he, however, hopes that July number will appear nearer the approximate date of issue.

The Magazine: Copy is much needed to keep contents varied, instructive and practical—the Hon. Editor suggests that members send articles covering ground of undermentioned titles:

Review of My Aviaries and Birds since Erection.
War-time in my Aviaries.
Some Birds I have Kept.
My Pheasants and Waterfowl.
My Doves and How I have kept and bred them.
Reminiscences of Bird-keeping.

Or on any other subject which may suggest itself. Members resident abroad are earnestly requested to send notes of the wild life of the birds of their district, and also of the aviculture, if any, of the locality.

Increase of Subscription: We would clearly state that this is not intended as permanent, but merely to cover the period of high prices of paper printing, etc., and to clear off the deficit—then the matter will be thoroughly gone into, and the subscription reduced to such a figure as will leave the Club a working income.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Arnott, P.	1	0	0
Perreau, Mrs. G. A.	0	10	0
Rumsey, Lacy	0	10	0

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Repard, Preston St. Mary, Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey, *By Mrs. M. A. Burgess and the Hon. Editor.*

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Ransom, 92 Dora Road, Wimbledon Park, London, S.W., 19.
Miss E .E. Pynan, West House, Hartlepool.

◆

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(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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Stanley Parrakeets.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures

Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves*

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Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

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Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N., 8
Cockateels
Budgerigars

* CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* MARSDEN, J, F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs

* BAILY, W., SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHII. MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
Zebra Finches.

* Montefiore, Mrs. H. Sebag, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
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Cockateels.

* Tracey, Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
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FOR SALE: Hen Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, or would buy acclimatised cock. —Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Bird Notes, Vol. 1, N.S., 1910, either bound or in loose parts. – Duchess of Wellington, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke.

WANTED: Hens, Cherry, Red-headed, and Jacarini Finches, also Barraband's Parrakeet. Cocks, Parson and Crimson Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Crimson-wing Parrakeet.—A. Decoux, Gery, par Aixe-s-Vienne, Hth Vienne, France.

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Cuban Trogan
Rainbow Bunting
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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The last three issues have been very late, owing mainly to special causes beyond our control, but also to some extent to our having to wait for copy coming in—a little less slackness on the part of some of our members can easily remedy this. Though there are not many birds in our aviaries at the moment, there are many past unrecorded episodes that have occurred therein, that would make most practical and interesting reading at the present time. Will members kindly consider this and respond?

Unpaid Subscriptions: In making up the accounts for audit and publication we find the postage account very heavy; this arises from three causes: (1) Increased postal rates. (2) Appeals re Deficit Fund. (3) Applications for overdue subscriptions. While the first two causes are unavoidable, the latter cause is a needless expense caused by the thoughtless slackness of some of our members. Will they kindly take this hint and remit at once? Also, those who have not yet sent in the extra 10s. to cover the increased subscription for this year, will greatly help and oblige the Club's Treasurer by remitting same promptly.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Change and Corrections of Address.

Capt. P. Gosse, to 18, Chenniston Gardens, Kensington, London, W., 5.
Mrs. Jullian Grove (nee the Hon. Norah McGaul Hogg) to Brattamsley House, Lymington, Hants.

◆

New Member Elected.

Mrs. Repard, Preston St. Mary, Langley Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey.

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Miss C. Brodie, Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford, Surrey. *By Dr. Lovell-Keays and the Hon. Editor.*

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Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* **Tracey, Mrs. A. L.,** Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon
Zebra Finches.

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FOR SALE: Pair of Pennant Parrakeets, £10; hen Brown's Parrakeet, £7; all acclimatised and in show condition.

FOR SALE: PRIVATELY IMPORTED Indian birds: Avadavats, Silverbills, Bush Larks, Rain Quail, Java Sparrows, Himalayan Siskins, and young Rock Parrakeets.—W. T. Page, Langston, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair African Silverbills, 31s. 6d.; splendid condition.—Miss Pithie, 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.

WOULD EXCHANGE Adult Cock Red-rump for young pair ditto, or other Parrakeets or Lovebirds, etc., not finch tribe.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

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FOR SALE: Beautiful tame Raven, price £5 to good home.—Mrs. Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony-Stratford, Bucks.

EXCHANGE: Wanted to exchange, pair young Swainson's Lorikeets for pair adult Red-rump Parrakeets. FOR SALE: Cock Plum-head Parrakeet. WANTED: Hen Crimson-wing Parrakeet.—Sir L. Money, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, London, N.6.

PRIVATELY IMPORTED INDIAN BIRDS: Avadavats, Silverbills, White-eyes *(Zosterops)*, White-breasted Water-hens, Lesser and Greater Button, and Jungle-bush Quail, and a Jerdon's Fruitsucker—now in Thames, awaiting collection—subject to live arrival. At current rates.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Shama, also rare British birds.—Capt. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

"BIRD NOTES" from January 1910 to present date, complete, in good condition, unbound.—Mrs. C. Campbell, 192, Worples Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

De VON & Co.,

127, KING'S CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.,

can offer the following:

Tame Rock Mynahs, £4 10s. each; Avadavats, 15s. pair; see price lists for Parrots, Cockatoos, and Senegal Birds; Squirrels (young) 20s. each; Cavies, 36s. and 48s. dozen; Goldfish, 30s. dozen; Shoveller Drakes, Teal, and Gargany, 1s. each; Heron, 15s.; Cormorants, 15s.; Little Bittern, 25s. each; Rabbits, 24s. dozen; Coloured Mice, 6s. 6d. dozen; insectivorous food, 9d. and 3s. 6d. dozen; Cuttlefish, 6d. and 1s. lb.; Ants' Eggs, 6s. lb.; Dried Flies, 3s. lb.; Yolk of Eggs, 3s. 6d. lb.; Sunflower Seed, 10d. lb.

Stanley Parrakeets.

Rosella Parrakeets
Stanley Parrakeets
Conures

Bronze-wing Doves
Brush Bronze-wing Doves
Necklace Doves
Diamond Doves

* BURGESS, MRS. M., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.
Green (Blue-bred) Budgerigars
Green Budgerigars
Yellow Budgerigars
Finest Singing strain Roller, Lizard, and all good varieties of Canaries.

CLARE, MISS L., The Hollies, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London.
Budgerigars, Blue × Green.

* CHATTERTON, MRS. A., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End London, N., 8
Cockateels
Budgerigars

* CALVOCORESSI, P. J., Holme Hey, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool.
Zebra Finches.

* MARSDEN, J, F.Z.S., The Bungalow, Banks Lane, Heysham Harbour, Lancs

* BAILY, W., SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury Wilts.
Blue-bred Green Budgerigars.

* SMITH, J., Woodlands, Kendal.
Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* PITHIE, MISS D., 68, Clarendon Road, Southsea, Portsmouth
Zebra Finches.

* MONEY, SIR L., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, London, N.6
Swainson's Lorikeets (Prefers to exchange with members, but willing to sell).

* MONTEFIORE, MRS. H. SEBAG, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.
Green Budgerigars.
Cockateels.

* TRACEY, MRS. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Subscriptions.—There are still a few outstanding, also for the second instalment of 10s. covering the increase of subscription for the current year. Will members kindly accept this notice and save the Club funds the unnecessary cost of postal application?

The Magazine.—Owing to landwork, and copy coming in late the hon. Editor has found it impossible to publish on time, but hopes shortly to reach the proper date of issue. Will members assist by sending in copy, so that he may have a choice of matter, ahead of time for the respective issues.

New Members.—We want new members, and such are to be obtained if *all* will assist in this matter. We urge this upon the attention of each individual member. We would remind members that there are no management expenses, but that the whole income is spent upon the Club Journal, Medals, etc.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Proposed for Election as Members.

Madam G. Le'callier, Le Pavillion, St. Pierre-les-Elbeuf, France. *By A. Decoux and the Hon. Editor.*

New Member Elected.

Miss C. Brodie, Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford, Surrey

Change and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. E. G. Dewar-Murray, to Inchyre House, Lindores, Fifeshire.
C. Harris, to 127, King's Cross Road, London, W.C.

Register of Club Breeders.

(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

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Late Issue of Magazine: We much regret the late appearance of this and recent issues, but a combination of cirmustance beyond the Editor's control has prevented an earlier appearance. Members can assist us in issuing nearer to-date by sending in articles at once. We hope October issue will appear much nearer to time than this has.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the assistance members can give them. The committee gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

	£ s. d.
Southcombe, S. L.	0 10 0

Change and Corrections of Address.

S. L. Southcombe, to Hill House, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset.

Major A. E. Snape, to Lower Hall, Mellor, Derbyshire.

New Member Elected.

Madam G. Lecallier, Le Pavillion, S. Pierre-les-Ebeuf, France.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Pairs of Californian Quails; Diamond, Peaceful, and hybrid Necklace-Senegal Doves, all 40s. per pair; also Zebra Finches, 20s. per pair. All bred here.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Blue Budgerigars £12 each; Green-Olives, £6 each; Green Blue-bred Budgerigars, and lighter colour Olive-Greens.—Madam G. Lecallier, 109, Rue de la Republique, Caudeberg-Les-Elbeuf, France.

PRIVATE IMPORTATION: Avadavats, Indian Silverbills, Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Wandering Tree-Pie, Pied Bush Chat, Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Indian Pitta, Green-breasted Pitta, Green Barbets, Crimson-breasted Barbet, Blue-throated Barbets. Due to arrive on or about October 1st. Subject to live arrival.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Hens, Shamah, Crimson-winged, and Barraband's Parrakeets, Jacarine and Cherry Finches, Jackson's and Giant Whydahs. Rare Australian finches and parrakeets. Pair Parson Finches or *P. personata.*—A. Decoux, 7, Heathfield Road, Croydon.

FOR SALE: Yorkshire Canaries, outdoor aviary-bred; cocks in song, hens, or pairs; very fine healthy birds; sell or exchange for foreign finches.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. 8.

LIST OF COLOURED PLATES.

which have appeared in Bird Notes, the Journal of the Club.

Gold and Green Tanager
Orange-flanked Parrakeet
Vinaceous Firefinch
Yellow Sparrow
Three-coloured Tanager
* Cornish Chough
Indian Roller
Blue-tailed Fruit-Pigeon
Black-backed Tanager
* Golden-crowned Conure
Senegal Parrot
Sepoy Finch
Waxwing
Gouldian Finch
Bronze Cuckoo
Superb Tanager
Haw-headed Parrot
Group of Spermophila
Green-billed Toucan
Yellow-winged Sugarbird
Blue, and Maroon Tanagers
Colombian and Hooded Siskins
* Mexican or Green Jay
Black-cheeked Tanager
Violet or Dusky Parrot
Painted Finch
Great or Giant Barbet
Cuban Trogan.
Rainbow Bunting
Black-winged Lory
Flame-breasted Flower-pecker.
A Beautiful Aviary
* Stellas' Lories
Blue-billed Weaver
Black and Yellow Creeper
Uvæan Parrakeet
Hunstein's Bird of Paradise
Blue Budgerigar
Loo Choo Robin
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Crimson-ringed Whydah
Indian White-eyes
Fairy Blue-Bird
Blue-rumped Parrot
Melba, and Red-faced Finches.
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Large Niltava
Red-spotted Conure
Parrot Finches (7 figs.)
Blue and Black, and Vieillot's Tanagers
Jerdon's Green Bulbul
Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Bulbuls
Red-billed Blue-Pie
Red-tailed Muila
Brown-backed Robin
Sunbirds

Any of the above, mostly hand-coloured, Plates can be obtained from the Publisher.

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J. H. HENSTOCK, Avian Press, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

IMPORTANT.—There are still a few who have not paid the current year's subscription (*due January 1st, 1919*), also a few others who have not remitted the extra 10s., forming the second half of this year's subscription. These members will greatly assist our Hon. Sec. and Treasurer by kindly remitting these arrears at once—it is now quite late in the year and it is important that all arrears should appear in the current year's accounts.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

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FOR SALE: Adult pair Bronze-wing Pigeons £4, young ditto 50s.; adult pair Diamond Doves 50s.; Zebra Finches 20s. pair; pair Yellow-shouldered Whydahs 50s.; hybrid Goldfinch × Sikhim Siskin 40s.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Beautiful Raven, fine specimen, 50s. to good home.—Mrs. Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony-Stratford, Bucks.

WANTED: Parrots and Parrakeets: Crimson-wing, hen; King, cock; Blue Bonnets, pair; Bauer's, cock; Yellow-naped, hen; Barnard's, pair; Many-coloured, pair; Black-headed Caiques, pair. FOR SALE: Blossom-head, cock.—Sir L. Money, Highgate, London, N.6.

PRIVATELY IMPORTED: Pied Bush-chat £5; Orange-headed Ground Thrush £5; Wandering Tree-Pie 90s.; all the above are hand-reared birds and cocks. Avadavats 10s. pair; Indian Silverbills 15s. pair. Acclimatised hen Scaly-breasted Lorikeet 50s.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Handsome Red-billed Weavers, in full colour, 7s. 6d.; Russ' Weavers 10s. each; Avadavats, out of colour, 8s. 6d. pair, full colour 12s. 6d. pair. African birds and Budgerigars due this week (October 10th). Carriage and Cages 1s.—DeVon and Co., 127, King's Cross Road, London, W.C.

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J. H. HENSTOCK, AVIAN PRESS, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

NOVEMBER, 1919.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Election of Council: The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Dr. Easton-Scott, and Dr. P. Gosse wish to retire from the Council, and we suggest that:

Major A. E. Snape, R.A.F.
H. G. The Duchess of Wellington
Lieut. G. E. Rattigan

be elected to fill the vacancies.

We would point out that any member has the right to nominate any other member for the Council, and also to volunteer to serve thereupon. Any such nomination must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than Dec. 10th.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Changes and Corrections of Address.

E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., to Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa.
J. Walmsley, to "Dalecot," St. Annes-on-Sea.
H. E. Bright, to Woolton Tower, Woolton, Liverpool.

Proposed for Election as Members.

R. H. Carr, Nant-y-Glyn, Windsor Avenue, Leicester.
R. W. Davey, 33 St. Luke's Road, Totterdown, Bristol.
R. Cade, Baytree Cottage, Southgate, London, N.
By S. Williams, F.Z.S.

Lieut. H. R. Young, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W. 16.
By the Hon. Editor and Mrs. Chatterton.

J. Edwards, 1224 East 43rd Street, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
D. S. Vermillion, 11 Chester Place, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
By L. F. M. Williamson.

M. Pettigrew, 6 Fifth Avenue, Kelvinside, Glasgow, W.

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(For regulations *vide* B.N., page 98).

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PRIVATELY IMPORTED: King Vulture *(Otogyps calvus)*; pair Bengal Pied Hornbills *(Anthracoceros albirostris)*, hand-reared; Bengal Eagle-Owl *(Bubo bengalensis)*; Wandering Tree-Pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*); Cattle Egrets *(Bubulcus coromandus)*; Jungle Mynahs *(Æthiospar fuscus)*; Grey-headed Mynah (*Sturnia malabarica*); Avadavats; Indian Silverbills; Greater Button Quail; and Argoondah Quail. Also Scaly-breasted Lorikeet.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED to exchange supposed hen Red-vented Bulbul for cock; also also wanted hen Shama and rare British birds.—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: An adult cock Red-rump, in perfect condition, in unheated outdoor aviary, 3 guineas. WANTED: A talking Parrot, as pet for matron of Military Hospital; also an adult hen Cockateel, proved breeder. —Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge, Worcs.

FOR SALE: True Persian Bulbul, a lovely singer, price 30s.—Mrs. E. G. Davies, St. Ann's, Tintern, Chepstow.

WANTED: Copies of *Aviaries and Aviary Life*.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Handsome Red-billed Weavers, in full colour, 5s. 6d. each; Russ' Weavers, 7s. 6d. each; Whydahs in full colour, 16s. per pair, out of colour, 6s. 6d.; Combasous, 6s. 6d. pair; Silverbills, 8s. 6d.; Cutthroats, 15s.; Bishops, 10s.; Cardinals, 15s. each; Budgerigars, 15s. pair; Amazon Parrots, Cockatoos, Parrakeets, Conures, Monkeys, Baboons; see price list. Carriage and Cages 1s.—De Von and Co., 127 King's Cross Road, London, W.C.

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THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Election of Council: No other nominations having been received, H.G. The Duchess of Wellington, Maj. A. E. Snape, and Capt. G. E. Rattigan have been duly elected to serve on the Council for 1920.

Our Journal: As we have pointed out elsewhere in this issue, contributors to the Club Journal have been less in numbers during this year than in the past; for this, war and armistice times, and the paucity of birds, may be a very good reason; at the same time we would strongly point out that, if Bird Notes is to maintain its standing as a record of the doings of birds in our members' aviaries, as well as dealing with the wild-life of Foreign and British avifauna, there must be an increased number of contributors of copy. Varied contributors mean varied contents and a continuity of interest in the Club Journal, and we strongly press this point upon our members. There are many pre-war Reminiscences, and Breeding Records that have never been published, and we urge our members to assist the Hon. Editor by sending such articles in. Members residing abroad are also strongly urged to send in Field-Notes of the birds of their locality, also notice of the aviculture of the country they reside in; all such would prove intensely interesting to all our readers, and we feel assured members only need a reminder to assist on some such lines as above indicated.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

◆

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mons. Jean Delacour, 28 Rue de Madrid VIIIe, Paris, France; *By Dr. M. Amsler and the Hon. Editor.*
T. H. Few, Hyde House, Hart Hill, Luton, Beds.; *By T. Hebb.*

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R. Cade, Baytree Cottage, Southgate, London, N.
Lieut. H. R. Young, 76 Mitcham Lane, Streatham, London, S.W. 16.
J. Edwards, 1224 East 43rd Street, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
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Stanley Parrakeets
Conures
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Stanley Parrakeets.
Many-colour Parrakeets.

* TRACEY, MRS. A. L., Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.
Zebra Finches.

It must be noticed, this is the commencement of the above register, and that with the exception of the first named, these Club Breeders may not have adult stock to dispose of, and that their supplies will mainly depend upon the season's successes; but members may make prospective bookings with them. All have pairs which have bred during last and other seasons, and thus may reasonably be expected to do so again. It is hoped many other members will register as Club Breeders. A descriptive catalogue will be issued as early as possible.

◆

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application. Advertisements should be sent to the Hon. Editor by the 8th of each month.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

WANTED: Parrots and Parrakeets: Crimson-wing, cock; Blue Bonnets, pair; Bauer's, cock; Yellow-naped, hen; Barnard's, pair; Many-coloured, pair; Black-headed Caiques, pair. FOR SALE: Blossom-head, cock.—Sir L. Money, Highgate, London, N., 6.

PRIVATELY IMPORTED:

King Vulture *(Otygyps calvus)*.
Bengal Eagle-Owl *(Bubo bengalensis)*.
Wandering Tree-Pie *(Dendrocitta rufa)*.
* Cattle Egrets *(Bubuleus coromandus)*.
* Jungle Mynahs *(Æthiospar fuscus)*.
* Grey-headed Mynahs *(Poliopsar malabarica)*.
Pair Adjutant Storks *(Liptoptilus javanicus)*.

* Ruddy Shelducks *(Casarca rutila).*
Blue-cheeked Barbets *(Cyanops asiatica).*
Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers *(Chloropsis aurifrons).*
* Red-whiskered Bulbuls *(Otocompsa emeria).*
* Red-vented Bulbuls *(Molpastes bengalensis).*
White-backed Vulture *(Pseudogyps bengalensis).*
* Bengal Black Bulbul *(Pycnonotus pygaeus).*

* Can be supplied in true pairs; others cannot be guaranteed male and female, but every precaution will be taken to prevent error. All in good health and mostly in good plumage.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED to exchange: Supposed hen Red-vented Bulbul for cock. Also wanted hen Shama and rare British Birds.—Capt. J. S. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Swainson's Lorikeets, £10; breeding cock Red-rump, £2 15s.; Rare New Guinea Starling.—Miss Clare, "The Hollies," Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

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127, KING'S CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.,
can offer the following:

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IMPORTANT.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

In consequence of the increased cost of producing BIRD NOTES, even in its present reduced form, the present annual subscription of TEN SHILLINGS does not provide a *working income*, never did in pre-war times, and under present conditions *a substantial increase of the annual subscription becomes an absolute necessity*, for the increased charges are not likely to be materially reduced in the near future, while the increased labour charges of printing, etc., *will certainly be permanent*.

We would remind members that they are at liberty to express an opinion in "B.N." correspondence section re above and the alterations given below, also that the selling price of every periodical weekly or monthly has been double that of pre-war times for months past, and much as we regret taking this step, no other course is possible, for, we repeat, *ten shillings* per year never anything like met our expenses even in pre-war times.

The alterations proposed are:

(1) That the annual subscription be TWENTY SHILLINGS, and that new members pay an entrance fee of FIVE SHILLINGS.

(2) That this change date from January 1st, 1919 (members to remit the balance of this year's subscription on June 30th next), and be for a period of THREE YEARS, by the end of which things will have become settled, and the matter of amount of subscription can then be re-opened and the question finally settled on a permanent basis.

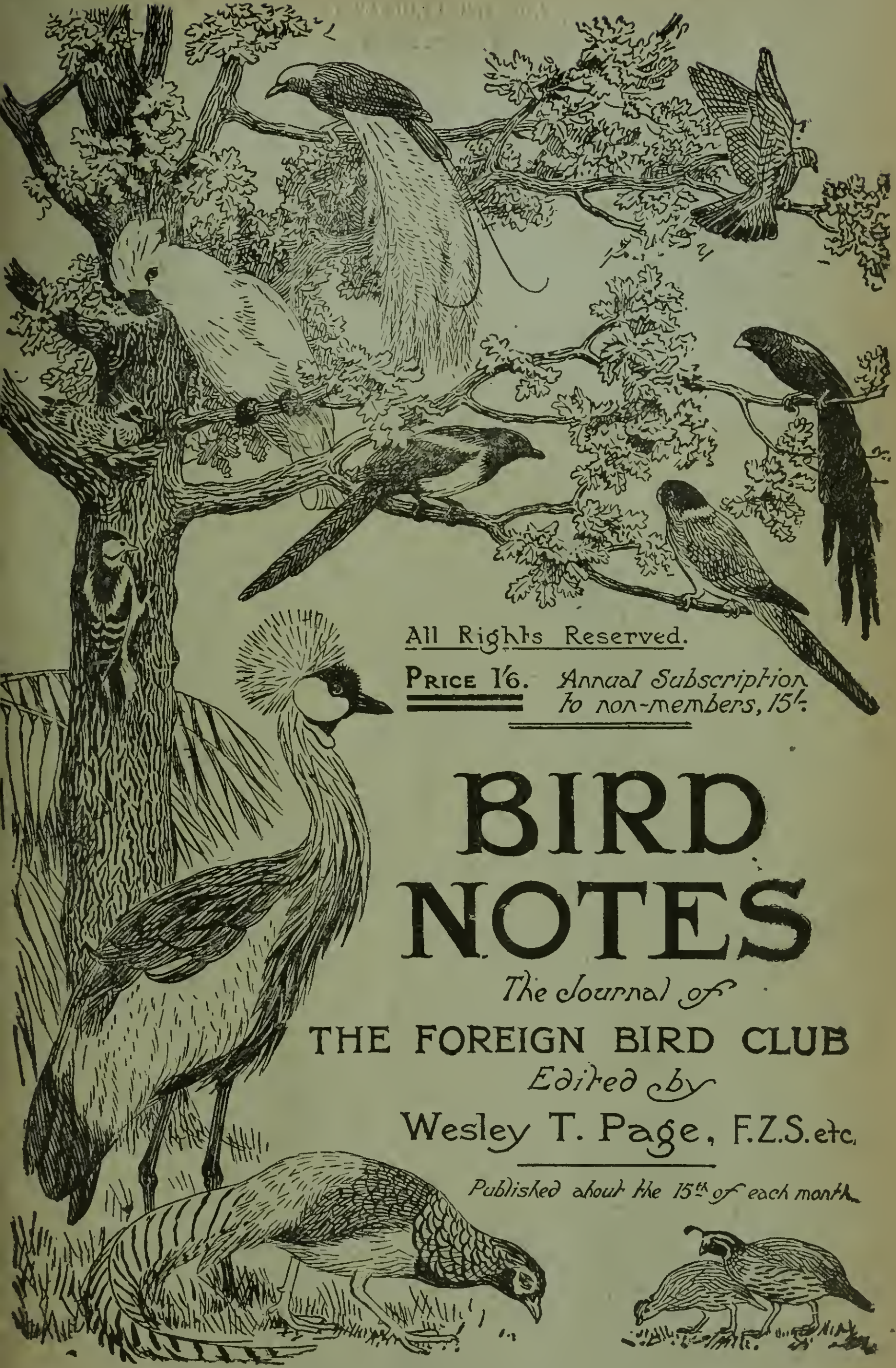
(3) Re coloured plates: In pre-war times six (6) cost from £90 to £100, *now* they would cost at least 30 to 45 per cent. more, and it is not proposed to renew coloured plates till our income provides for such in advance.

These alterations have been transmitted to the Council per post, but only thirteen replies are as yet to hand, eleven of which give their decision without reservation in favour of the above alteration to rules, and two sign against.

In our next issue full figures of the voting of the Council will be given; but the issue before members is clearly: either an increase of subscription as above, or ceasing to issue BIRD NOTES! For your officers cannot, *and will not*, continue indefinitely the sending out of deficit appeals as in the past.

For the Council,
WESLEY T. PAGE,
SIDNEY WILLIAMS.

Series 111. JANUARY, 1919. Vol. 11. No. 1.



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Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE.
Printed and Published by J. H. Henstock, Avian Press,

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Aviary Notes from the United States ... By W. H. Browning.

White-cheeked Honeysucker By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., etc.

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Book Notices and Reviews .... By C. W. Beebe.

Records of Birds which have bred in Captivity ...... By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Editorial.

Correspondence.—*Bloodstained Finch—Greenfinch Hybrid.*

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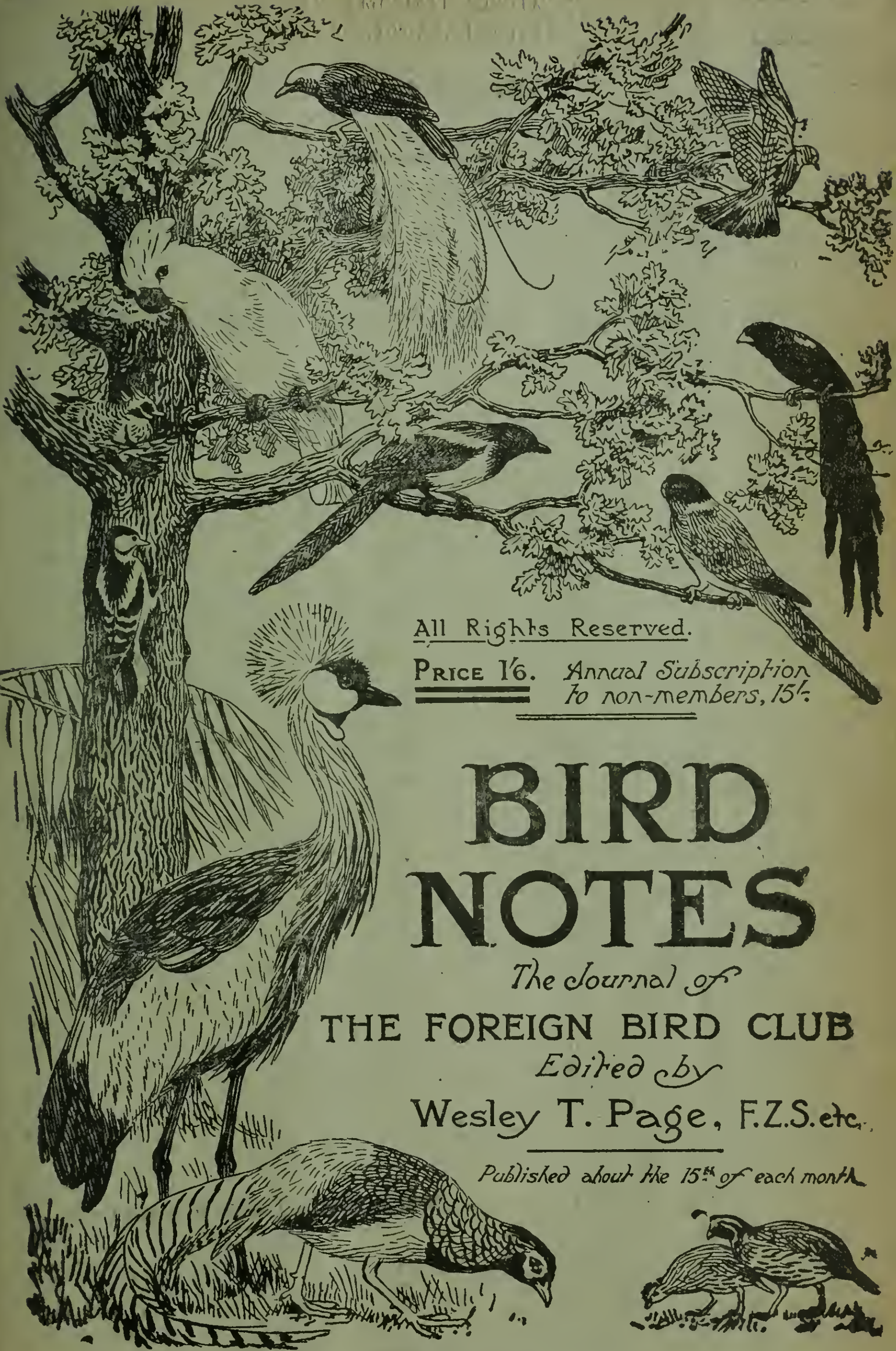

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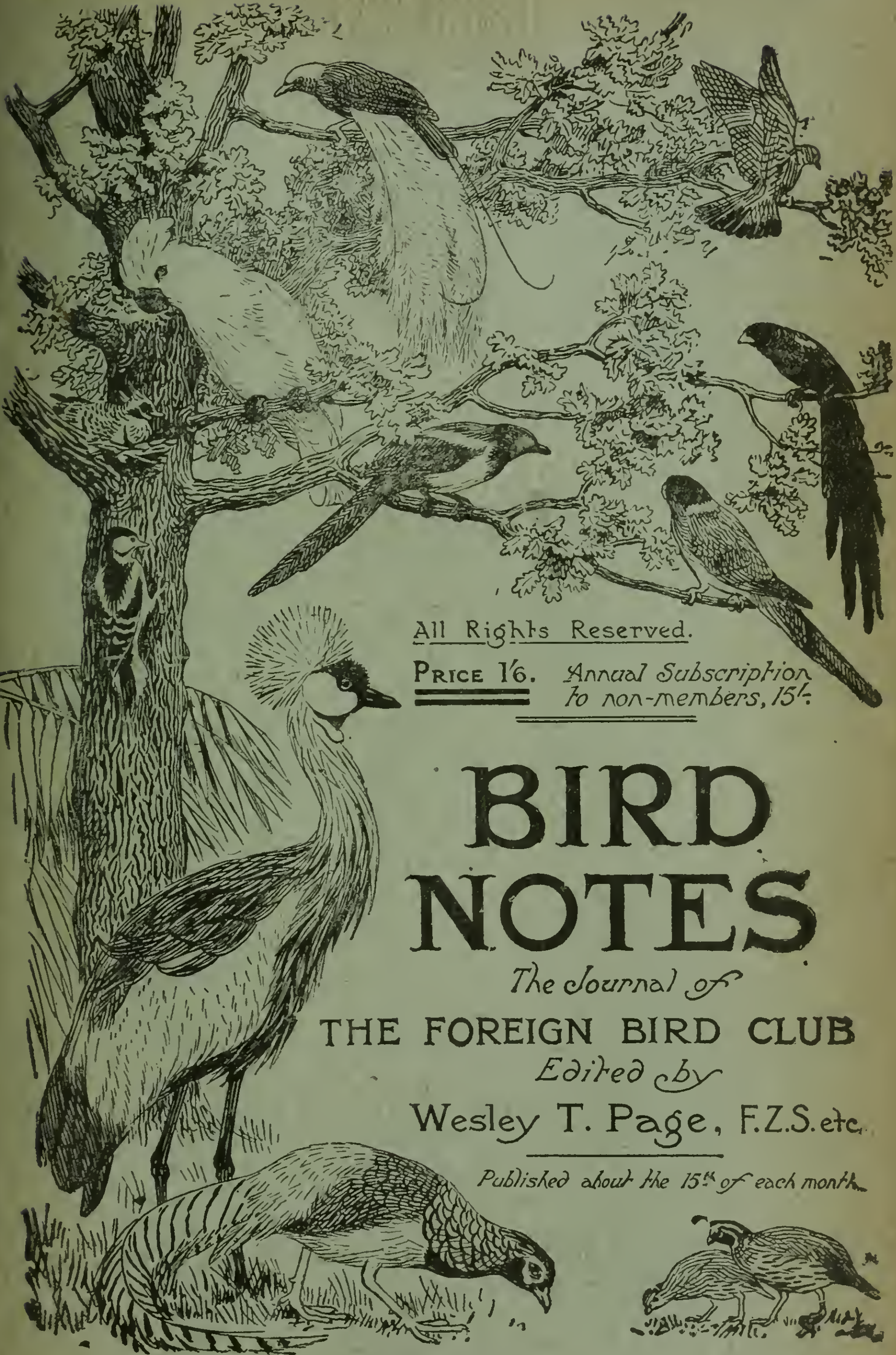

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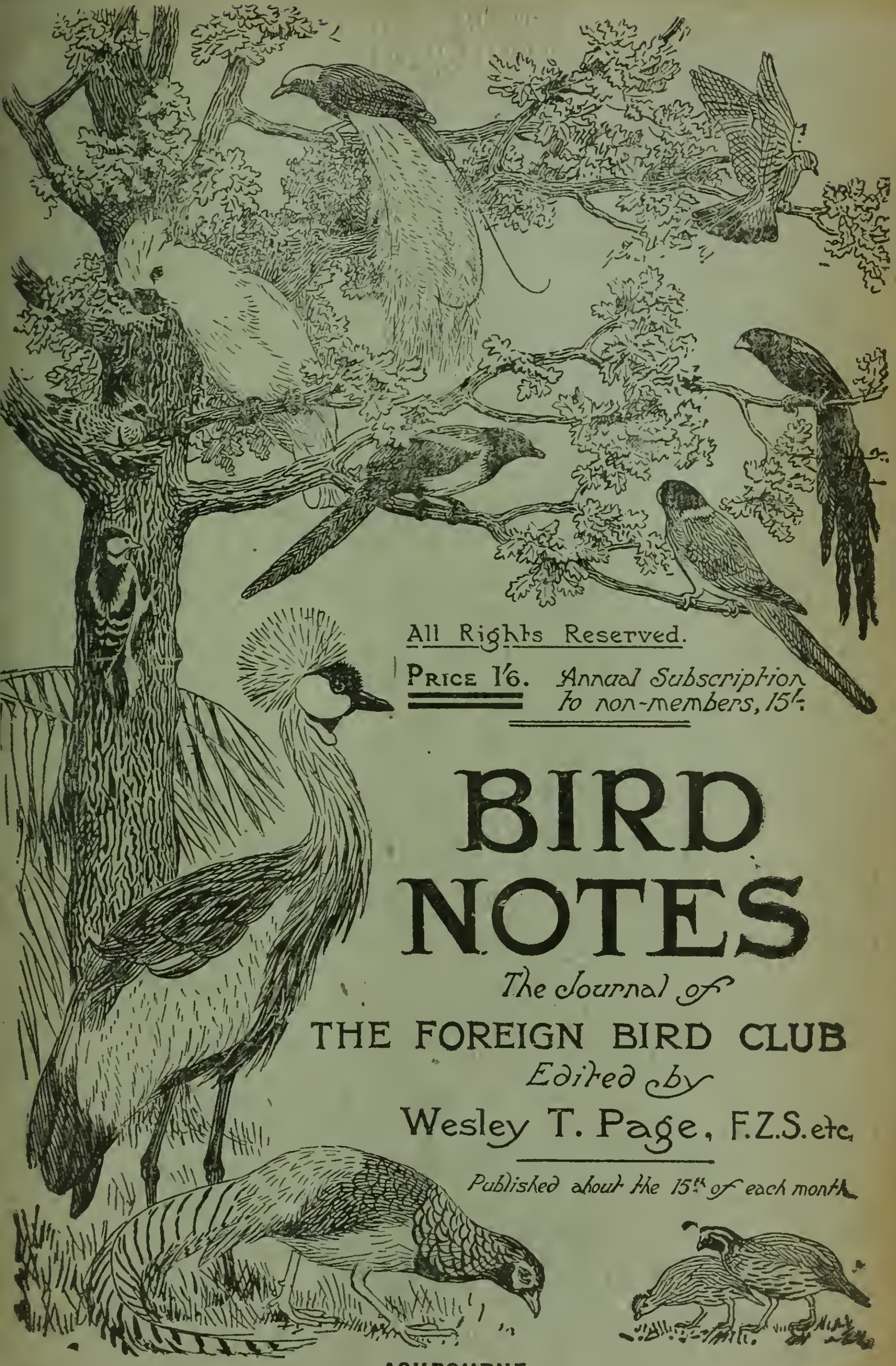

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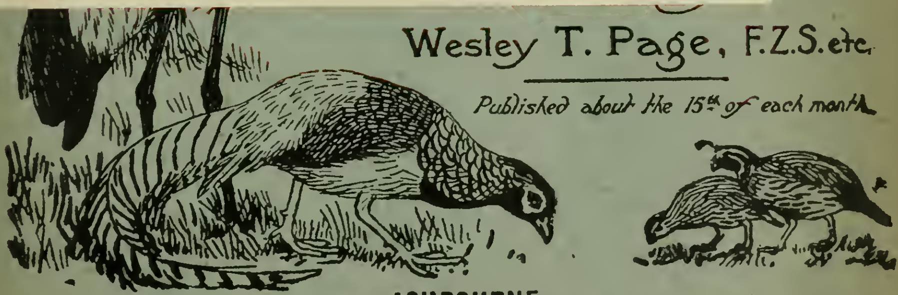

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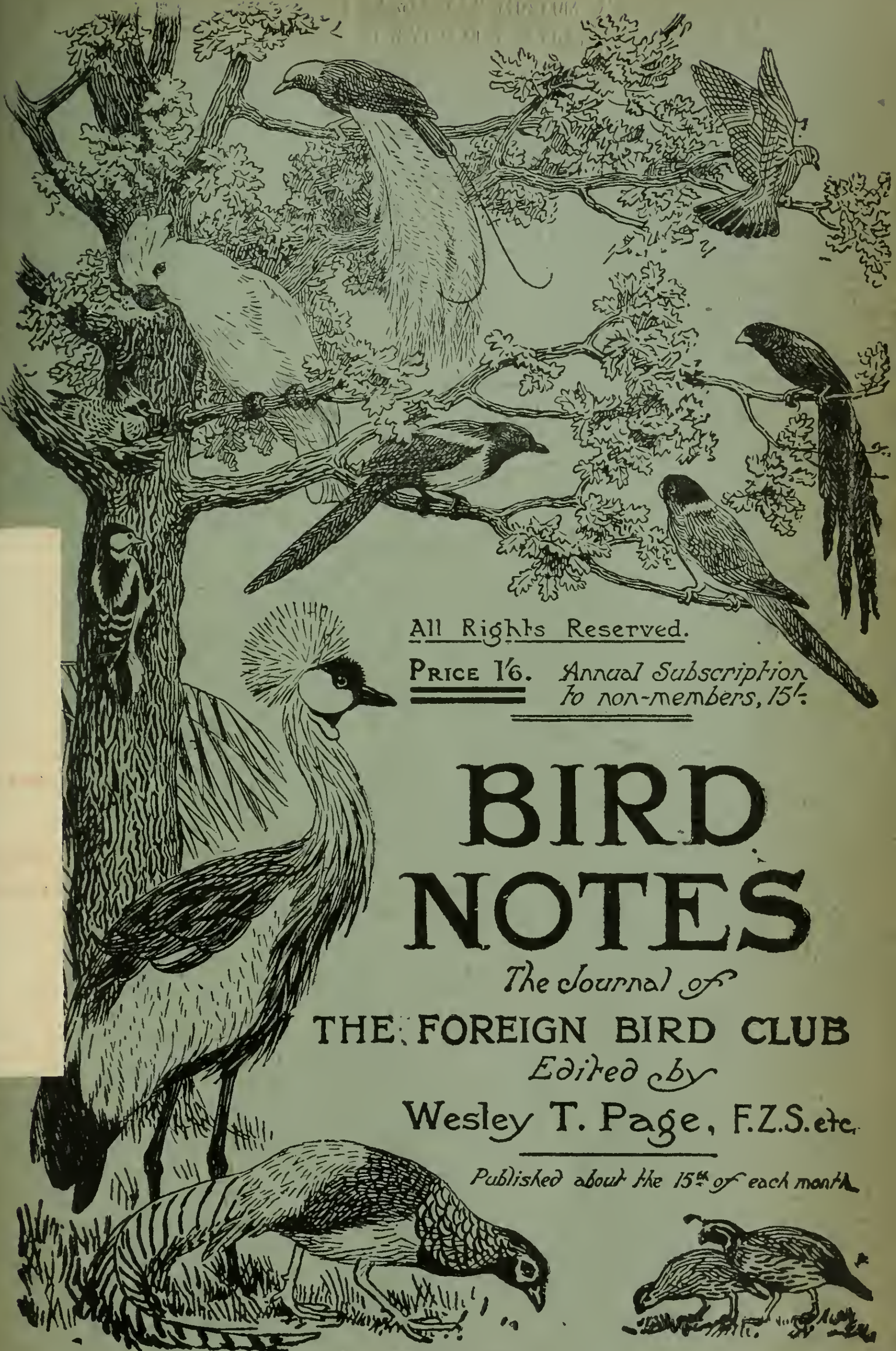

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Edited by

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month.

ASHBOURNE.
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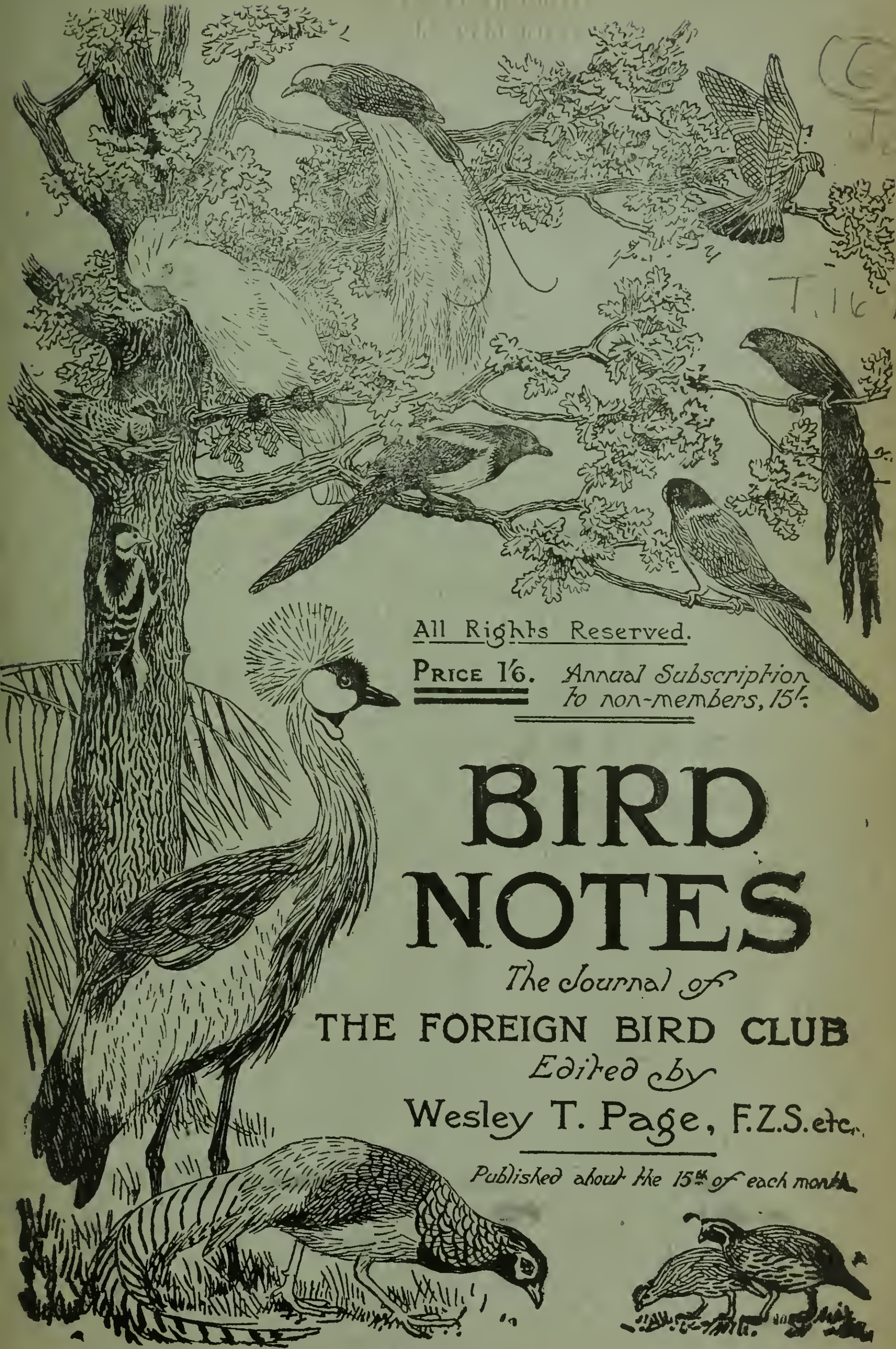

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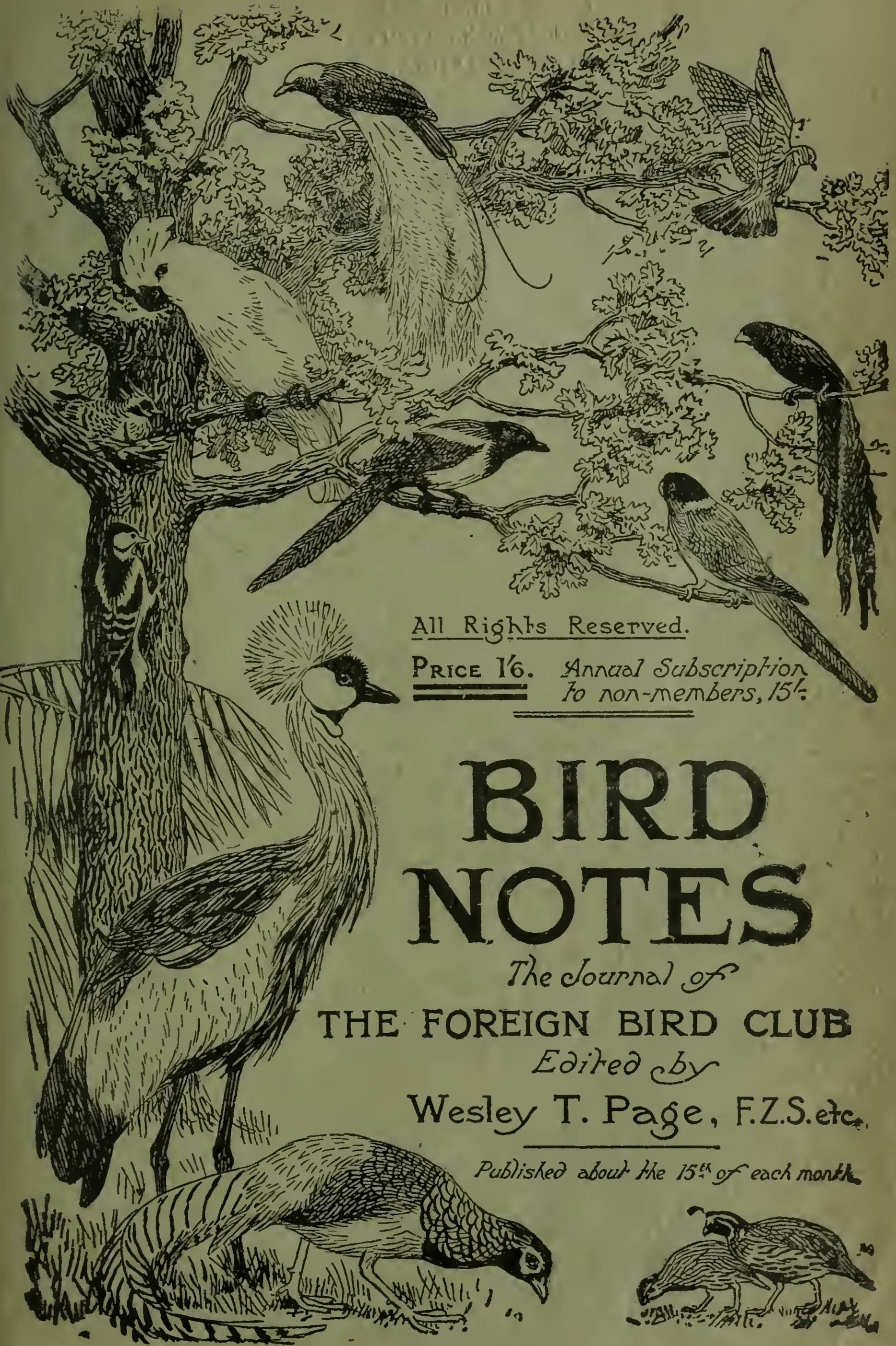

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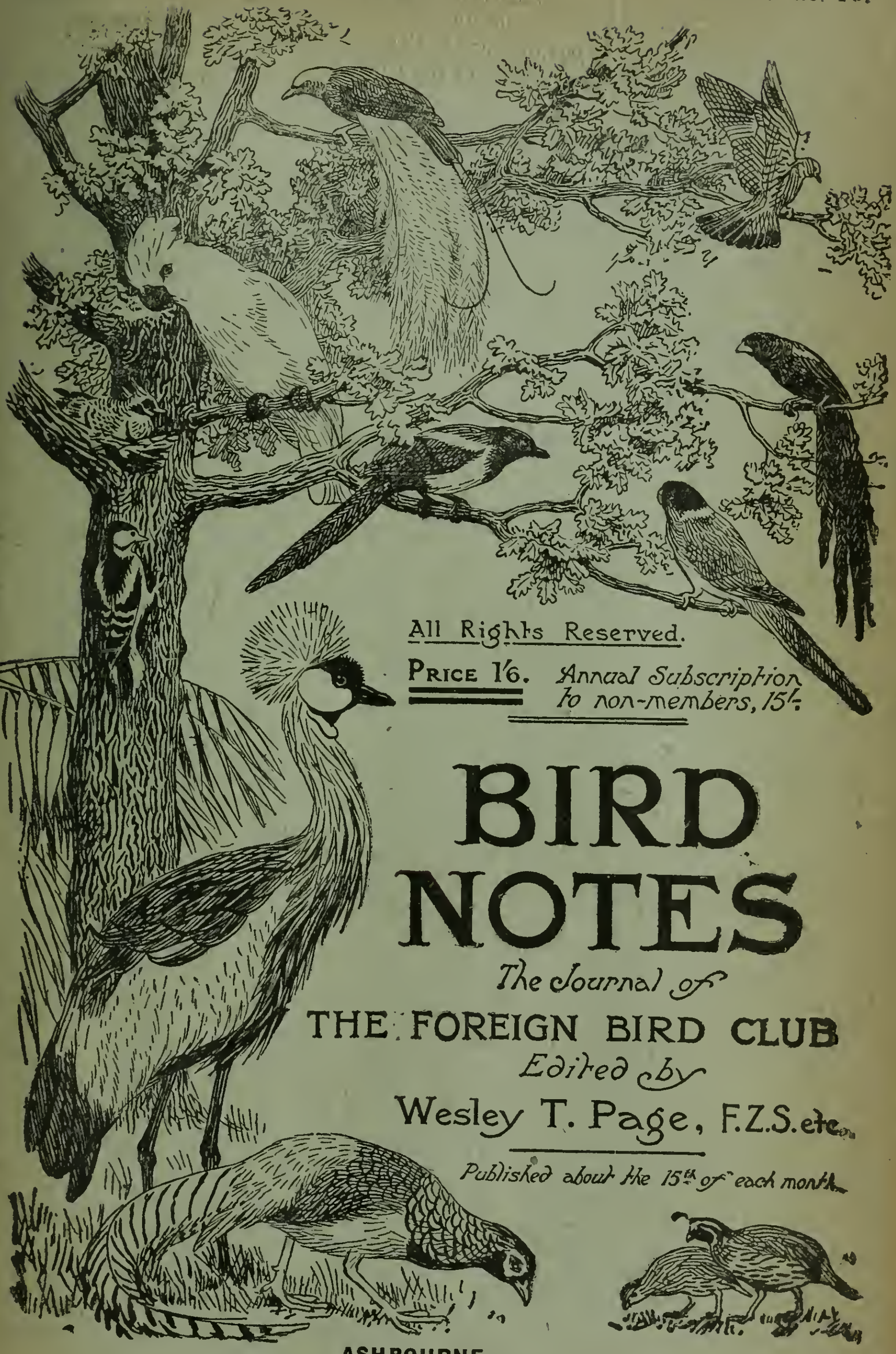

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Edited by

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. etc.

Published about the 15th of each month

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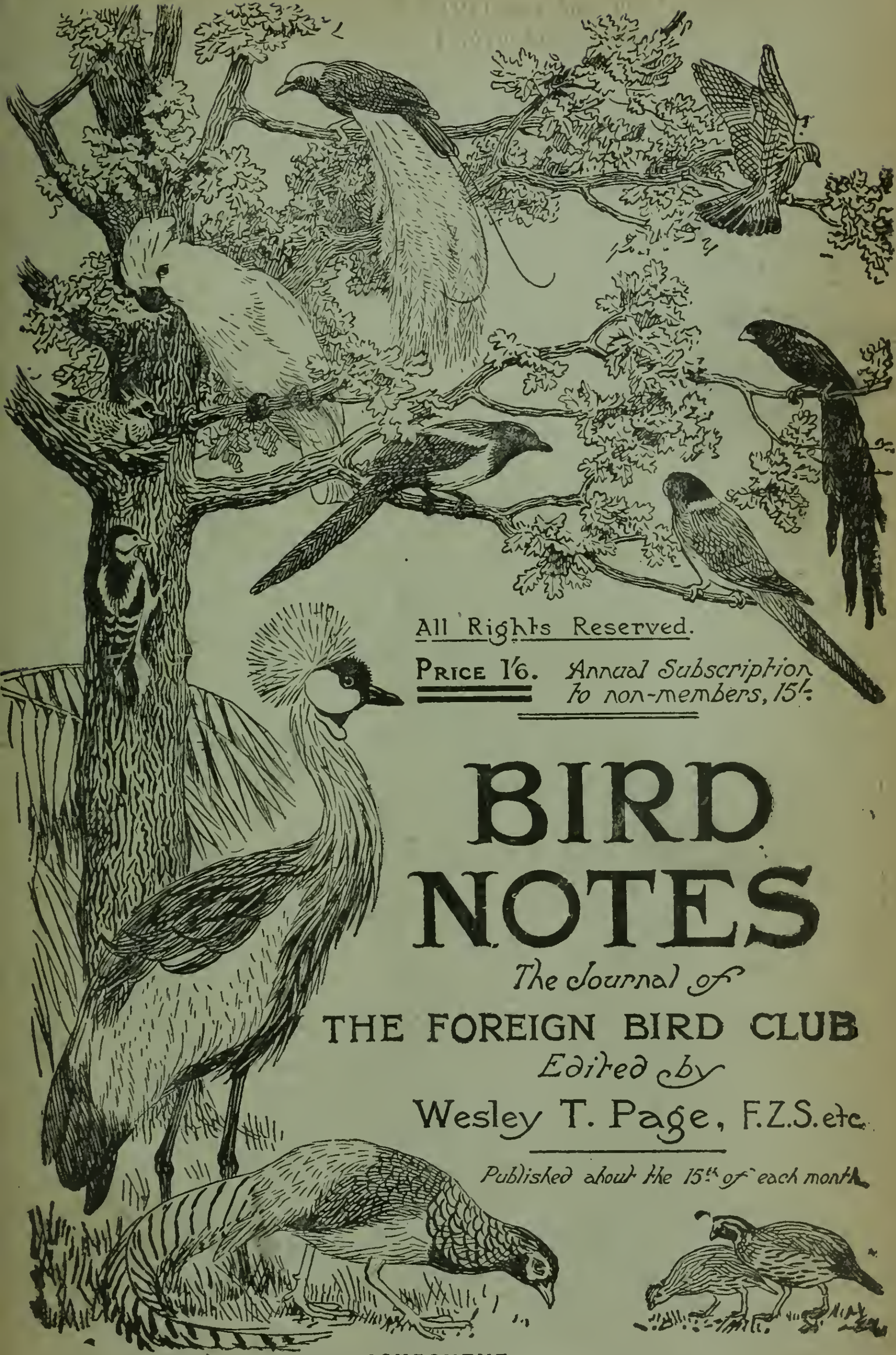

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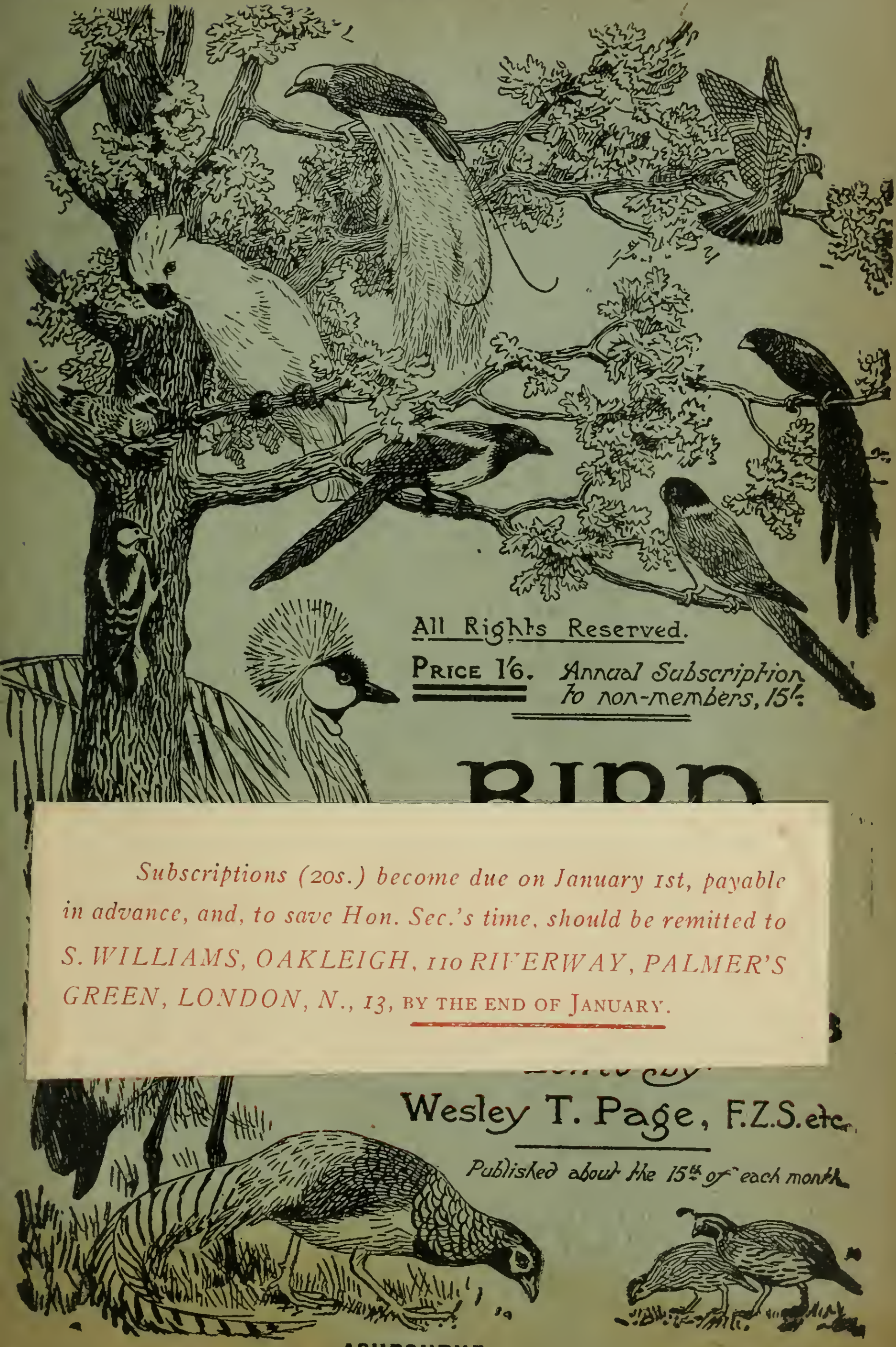

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